

Androssan, have been blessed with a revival. One intelligent gentleman told me that, his own religious impressions were revived under his ministry, and that most of the leading members of the Free Church could say so also. If he came back to you as a resolute, I asked, would you keep by him? "No," was the answer, "much as I esteem him as my spiritual father, I could not conscientiously adhere to his ministry." Such noble-minded adherents of Free Church principles, deserve better treatment than they have hitherto received at our hands. May God open the eyes of Scotland's ministers.

My dear Sir,

Affectionately yours,

ROBERT BURNS.

JOURNAL

OF A VISITATION OF A PORTION OF THE BOUNDS OF THE PRESBYTERY OF KINGSTON.

By THE REV. M. Y. STARR.

DEAR SIR,—You desire to have notes of the visit which I made to Kingston and the neighborhood, by appointment of the Synod; and I proceeded to give you such particulars as I think may be most interesting to your readers—meagre and unsatisfactory as I feel they must appear. I arrived in safety at Kingston on the morning of Saturday, the 4th of August, about 6, A. M. I was informed that a meeting of the Committee of Management of the congregation, was to take place at 5, A. M. I attended, and opened the meeting with prayer. There was a full attendance of the members of Committee, and I entered upon the duties assigned me in so far as I found the subjects of enquiry applicable to the state of the congregation, or as it was possible to obtain answers in regard to them; but seeing that the congregation had never been fully organized—that they not only have no Minister but no Elders; that they have nothing more than a mere secular organization, many of the queries were not applicable to the congregation, and in regard to others which might have been, there were no office bearers qualified to afford information. The Committee met in a large splendid hall in the city buildings, which has been leased as a place of worship for the congregation for two years, at an annual rent of £65. A handsome pulpit has been erected, and convenient seats provided for between 5 and 600 people. I will not enter upon the particulars of my interview with the Committee, farther than to state that the congregation has laboured and still labours under manifold and great difficulties, discouragements and disadvantages, but that yet there are many circumstances which would give the hope of better things for the future. The congregation was an off-set from one which had been long established and flourishing, and those who composed it found themselves under the perplexing circumstances of being compelled, by principle, to withdraw themselves from their former connection, while their former pastor and the whole of the office-bearers adhered to the Synod in connection with the Establishment.—They were thus left as sheep without a shepherd. I need not detail the steps which were adopted towards the obtaining of a suitable and efficient Minister, the discouraging delays by which the attainment of their object was necessarily attended, and the disappointment in which they have hitherto ended. The evils attendant upon these circumstances have been very little notified by the weekly supply of preaching by the Ministers of Synod. I have felt impressed with the idea that the first object of the Synod should have been to take steps for the organizing of an efficient an eldership as possible, and the interim appointment of one of their number to take entire charge of the congregation till such time as a stated pastor could finally be chosen and appointed. The hanging together, however, of the congregation, under circumstances so trying, gives reason to believe that the motives and principles by which they were actuated in their separation from their former connection, were pure and well-grounded, and that they will prove steadfast; and I must say that I was gratified with the readiness which I found on the part of the Committee to impart any information in their power, the frankness and openness with which they communicated with me, and the apparent heartiness of their desire to ad-

vance the interests of the congregation. On Sabbath forenoon and afternoon I preached to a numerous and attentive congregation, estimated at about 400—I should say rather under that number. The congregation in the afternoon was not quite so large—whether from the want of acceptableness on the part of the preacher, or the prevailing habit of neglecting the afternoon diet of our Sabbath services, or partly from both causes, I cannot say; but I have had on many occasions to deplore the falling off of attendance on the afternoon services of the Sabbath—indicating too plainly that they are engaged in too frequently as a duty and not as a privilege—evidencing the low state of christian feeling among our professing christian congregations. I spent an hour in visiting the Sabbath School, which I was pleased to find had an average attendance of 60 or 70 pupils. It is conducted by ten teachers, and appears to be efficiently taught, though the want of a superintending and directing hand is deeply acknowledged. There is connected with it a library of about 200 volumes. On Monday I had opportunities of conversing freely with several members of the congregation, and found among them not only a mourning over the outward state of this congregation, and the insufficient enjoyment of the means of grace, but over the low state of genuine and vital religion, which shewed that they themselves were serious and earnest in desiring to promote a better state of things. They have much need for and earnest desires after the fostering care and the prayers of the Church. May God hear the prayer of his people in that corner of His vineyard, and the prayers of the Church in their behalf, and may they be visited with a plenteous and refreshing rain in the outpouring of his quickening Spirit, that that the Church there may be revived and quickened, through an abundant supply of the means of grace, and the regular dispensation of word and ordinance among them, by a servant of the Lord—a man after God's own heart.

On Monday I completed the arrangements in so far as practicable, for my future tour, and set out at 5, P. M., by the steam packet, for Picton, along with my esteemed friend, Mr. Wardrope, (since settled as pastor of the congregation of Bytown) and his brother-in-law, Mr. McAlister, and was happy to meet the Rev. Mr. McLean—the late Minister at Picton—on board, and in somewhat restored health. The Rev. Mr. Wightman also joined us at Bath. We arrived at Picton about 12 o'clock at night, and were hospitably lodged at the house of Mr. McAllister. Tuesday was the day appointed for the induction of the Rev. Mr. Hamilton to the pastoral care of the congregation at Picton, where, as requested, I preached the introductory sermon.—Mr. Rogers, of Demorestville, conducting the induction services, and addressing the Minister: Mr. McLean addressing the people; and Mr. Wightman concluding the services of the day with prayer and praise. The congregation was considerable, and seemed deeply interested in the solemn services. The reception of their new pastor seemed to be most hearty, and there is reason to hope that another faithful, and by the divine blessing, efficient watchman, hath been set on the walls of our Zion. I afterwards met with the Elders, Managers and Members of the congregation, together with Mr. Hamilton, their newly inducted, and Mr. McLean, their late Minister, and from the full and generally satisfactory answers obtained to the queries proposed, I had reason to believe that the organization, and, on the whole, the spiritual condition of the congregation was satisfactory.—The duties of the Session, along with their late Minister appear to have been zealously performed, and discipline to have been faithfully exercised, and there is every reason to believe that the congregation will be a flourishing and influential one. Picton is beautifully situated in the middle of a rich, undulating country, on the romantic shores of a branch of the Bay of Bay of Quinte. I had intended to proceed by land the same evening to Demorestville to preach and hold a meeting of the congregation there, but through some misapprehension, Mr. Rogers had given no intimation of my visit, and at that late hour it was thought useless for me to proceed. I resolved, therefore, on taking the boat next morning direct for Belleville, and passed so agreeable, and, I trust, not unprofitable evening in christian converse with my brethren of the ministry, whom the occasion had

brought together, and other friends. I set out for Belleville on Wednesday, at 5, P. M., on a lovely morning, the Bay, smooth as crystal, reflecting the numerous wooded headlands and scattered islands, which gave infinite variety and beauty to the scene of the whole landscape, mellowed by a slight transparent haze which rested on the waters. Oh that men had eyes to see in the wonders and loveliness of creation around them, the glory and the perfections and the attractive beauties of the great Jehovah visibly reflected, that their souls might be attuned to adoration and to praise. I met a former brother of the old Synod on board, who greeted me kindly, and we had some interesting conversation in regard to the position of the two Synods. He asked if I thought there were no means by which a re-union might be effected. I said I could not indulge any hopes of this. I felt that they were too firmly bound by those chains by which they were linked to the Establishment of Scotland, to hope that they could ever burst them, while we were so necessarily held by our principles, as well as our acts, to the position which we had taken, that an inseparable gulph was placed between us,—that we could not move to them—nor they, without forsaking the Establishment move to us. At Belleville I was rejoiced to meet Mr. Johnstone, who, along with Dr. Marshall, received me on the wharf, with whom I walked first to the house of the latter, and afterwards to Mr. Odey's—connected by marriage with the late respected Minister, at whose house it had been previously arranged that I was to sojourn during my short stay there. Although my recollections of Belleville were not very vivid, after an interval of 12 years, I could discern very great improvements which had taken place. I obtained such information from Mr. Johnstone in regard to the state of the congregation, as his short residence among them enabled him to collect, and altogether the prospects seen encouraging for the raising of a fine congregation there, could a Minister of suitable gifts and qualifications be obtained. In the meantime it is to be feared that there is somewhat of that apathy in regard to spiritual things which is engendered by the want of a stated ministry, and the dispensation of word and ordinance, and that since the departure of their late pastor for his native land, the effects of the want of a shepherd are visible in the flock, and that they are now comparatively easy under circumstances of destitution, which they would before have contemplated with sorrow of heart, and in losing the acute sense of their destitution, they have lost somewhat of the energy which would enable them to repair their loss, and regain their privileges, by taking active in asures adequate to the emergency. This is but too common a case; the withdrawal of the usual sustenives of a religious life, acts like the benumbing influence of cold, which induces to sleep insensibly; yet are there some among them who mourn over this, and who, I trust, will soon do more, and bestir themselves to exertion and prayer to remedy the evil. They have been deprived by the mere spectre of the former congregation of their comfortable church, and they have provided themselves with such accommodation as their circumstances and present necessities require. The attendance on the Sabbath services, so often as they are privileged to enjoy them is, I understand, good, and I preached to and addressed a respectable and attentive audience in the evening. An interesting, wide and increasing field is open, I should judge, for our Church in this place, could it be speedily and effectively occupied; and the labours of the Minister ought to be confined to the town and the immediate neighbourhood. The late pious and devoted pastor, in the largeness of his heart, embraced a wider circle of duty than his health and strength could enable him to do justice to, and thus the present fruits of his labours may be less apparent, though his faithfulness may not be less known to the minister, whom in humble and unostentatious piety he served. Many individuals in Belleville and in the neighbourhood, for a great distance round, bear a ready testimony to his faithful and acceptable labours. Through mistake, appointments were made for me to be at the preaching stations in the townships of Huntingdon and Tyendinaga the same day, and at the same hour. Mr. Johnstone, however, kindly agreed to visit Huntingdon, while I went to Tyendinaga, to which place Mr. Odey