

ministers in conducting the course of studies during this Session, a minute was adopted expressive of the obligations under which the church will be brought to the congregations of these ministers, and in the case of the Streetsville congregation, the services of whose minister, the Rev. Mr. RISTOUT, were found to be indispensably requisite during the whole Session, the Rev. Dr. Burns, as Principal, was requested by the Committee to address to them a special communication explanatory of the necessity under which the Committee has been led to contemplate an arrangement involving so great a sacrifice on their part, and soliciting their concurrence therein. For the efficiency of the Institution it is found necessary that Mr. RISTOUT give three or four days a week to College duties during the Session; the rest of the time, including the Sabbaths, he will continue to devote to his pastoral duties—a most arduous and self-denying undertaking on his part, for which we trust strength will be given to him.

A very gratifying report was made by Dr. Burns on the subject of the proposed Bursaries, towards which it appeared that the sum of £91 10s. had already been subscribed. But as it is expected that several additions will yet be made to this fund, we defer the particulars of the report until our next publication.

From the report of the Librarians, it appeared that the Institution was already in possession of upwards of 3,000 volumes, consisting, principally, of donations from friends in Scotland, and purchases made with the pecuniary grant from the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland. A complete catalogue of the Library was presented by the Librarians.—Messrs. ROBERT BURNS, and JOHN BLACK; also a draft of regulations for the management of the library, which was referred to a sub-Committee for examination. Several additional donations of books were reported, which were ordered to be duly acknowledged; among the rest, a complete and beautiful edition of the Latin Historians, by the Rev. M. Y. SRAKE, of Dundas, and several valuable volumes by the Rev. Wm. REID, of Graton.

After the business of the Committee was closed, they again met with the Students, and, according to previous arrangement, heard a series of exercises, prepared by certain of their number. These were, 1st. An Essay on the value of a knowledge of Civil History to the Student of Theology, by Mr. JAMES NISBET. 2. An Essay on the doctrine of Causation, by Mr. ROBERT URR. 3. A critical discourse on Hebrews VI.—1-6, by Mr. ROBERT F. BURNS. 4. A Popular Sermon on 1st Corinthians VI.—20, by Mr. JOHN BLACK; and 5. An Essay on the fallacy of the selfish system of morals, by Mr. GEORGE JAMESON.

The Committee expressed their high satisfaction with these exercises. The business of the day was appropriately concluded by a prayer meeting, which was held in Knox's Church in the evening, and conducted by the Students, who were addressed, in the course of the exercises, in very solemn and affectionate terms, by the Rev. Wm. REID, of Graton.

## Home Missions.

### VISIT TO BELLEVILLE.

BY THE REV. DR. FERRIER.

To the Editor of the Record.

HAMILTON, C. W. 31st Oct.

MY DEAR SIR,—Having lately had the pleasure of spending two Sabbaths with the congregation of Belleville, in the Presbytery of Kingston, I beg leave to lay before you a short account of my intercourse with the interesting people there. It was Friday morning, the 10th current, when I left this, and I reached Cohourg that evening, where I found our kind brother, the Rev. Mr. Alexander, ready to receive me. I spent the night under his hospitable roof, and next morning proceeded in the coach to Belleville, which I reached in the evening in safety. I was anxious to spend the interval betwixt the two Sabbaths in preaching in the town and neighbourhood, as might be thought most expedient. Remarking that some of my recent predecessors had been employed chiefly in the country, it was suggested, by one of the congregation, that the town people had the greatest claim, and that there would be a sufficient share of labour for me in visiting several families,

where a word in season might be spoken, or where consolation might be administered in some cases of distress, and, also, in conducting religious exercises at some public meetings which were contemplated.

On the second Sabbath of this month, the weather was so very unfavorable that I was not disappointed at finding the audience small; they were, however, apparently very attentive, and I afterwards found that there were persons among them of great intelligence and piety. What they chiefly want is regular organization, and sermons, not at distant and uncertain intervals, which keeps them dissatisfied, but supply at stated periods, which would make the public understand when to look for it. The Presbyterian population, consisting of Canadians, Scotch, English, Irish, and Americans, is numerous in this place and neighbourhood, but they are not well concentrated. One thing came under my observation here, the mentioning of which may be of use to brethren in visiting this region, as well as in other places:—There is a disposition among Presbyterians who are not from Scotland, to feel themselves overlooked when Ministers, or other office-bearers, perhaps altogether through inadvertency, make notices or remarks which seem to give a mere Scotch aspect to the Free Church in Canada. It struck me forcibly that the more rarely this occurs, the better for the cause of genuine Presbyterianism: for that probably the congregations in connection with the Established Church of Scotland have been looked upon by a goodly portion of the provincial population with a degree of jealousy from the Nationality, if I may so call it, of their exhibition, which feature alone has prevented many from joining them. The Free Church in this country should do every thing in their power to present themselves as a Church for the Province at large,—having for its object the congregating of Christians, provisionally brought together, of whatever country they are, and maintaining that form of Church Government, the scriptural nature of which renders it peculiarly fitted to unite the people of God, of all classes, in the bonds of spiritual brotherhood. You will, I hope, pardon this hint, which I believe none of my brethren need more than myself.

Between the second and third Sabbaths of the month I found sufficient employment, although not more than I wanted, and endeavoured cheerfully to pursue. One lady of the place, of great enterprise, who may be said, in the emphatic language of scripture, to be "ready to every good work," kindly undertook to conduct me through the families which had either the greatest claim, or the greatest need, for ministerial visitation. In some cases it was mere calls of friendship, in others we had religious exercises, adapted, as much as possible, to the state of the families. Along with my intelligent and zealous guide, I was thus occupied on the afternoons of Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday; on Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday, I made a few similar visits alone. On Tuesday the congregation had a refreshing visit from the Rev. Dr. Burns, of Toronto, who preached in the evening to a numerous and attentive audience. On Thursday afternoon I lectured in a private house, where a goodly number of ladies collected, the exercises being chiefly intended for the benefit of some individuals who were in distress. On Friday evening I conducted the weekly prayer meeting, which, although not numerously attended, is countenanced by the more pious part of the congregation, who are very able to conduct the exercises themselves, when no minister is at hand to give assistance.

After preaching twice on the third Sabbath of the month, and visiting some families, with Mrs. Marshall, on Monday forenoon, the 20th instant, my last service with the good people there was to meet with the Ladies' Committee for Home Missions, with a view to encourage them in their labours of love, which I endeavoured to do, even whilst I felt as if they required it not, their hearts seeming to be actively devoted to the good work. I most sincerely hope that their diligence, liberality, and zeal, will be imitated in other parts of the church, and that their exertions and sacrifices in the cause of religion will be abundantly rewarded by Christ. I would hold up this little society as a pattern for others, and, particularly, the activity and zeal of their measures as worthy of general imitation.

I cannot conclude this short communication without referring to the great kindness of Judge Smart and his Lady, with whom I sojourned during the most of my stay in the place. He is a highly intelligent gentleman—takes a deep interest in the Presbyterian cause, and has influence and inclination to be of great service to the Church. I am certain that Ministers going there will obtain, from his enlightened views, and thorough acquaintance with the peculiarities of the Province, many valuable hints, which may be turned to great practical utility.

The population in Belleville is rapidly increasing, and I trust that the infant congregation there will soon reach such maturity as will enable them to require and obtain the full labours of a Pastor of their own.

I have thought it my duty to send the foregoing communication, of which you are at liberty to make whatever use you may judge proper.

I remain,

My Dear Sir,

Yours, with sincere regard,  
ANDREW FERRIER.

## NARRATIVE OF A MISSIONARY TOUR TO OWEN'S SOUND.

BY THE REV. A. MACKINTOSH.

I left Fergus on Wednesday the 26th March, accompanied by the Rev. Mr. Smellie, who, in the prospect of going so far with me, had sent an appointment to a Mr. Gunn, who lives a few miles beyond Arthur, to preach in his house in the forenoon of the above day—but owing to some neglect or misunderstanding, we found on arriving there that the appointment had not been made. A few persons came, however, to whom we announced it on our way; and after engaging in a short service, in which we both took part, and making two appointments in the same quarter to be fulfilled by myself on the following day, we returned 3 miles to fulfil another appointment, in the evening, of which we found more full intimation had been given than of the preceding one. The meeting chiefly owing to the state of the roads, was not numerous. Mr. Smellie preached a very instructive discourse on Psalm 89—15.—"Blessed are the people that know the joyful sound." On the morning of the following day Mr. Smellie returned home, and I proceeded to fulfil the appointments which had been made for me the previous day, which were to preach in Mr. Gunn's in the forenoon, and in the house of a Mr. Lamont, six miles further down the Garafraxa road, in the afternoon. At neither place was the attendance so numerous as might have been expected from the number of settlers, and the destitution of ordinances under which the people have so long laboured; and there is reason to believe that some are becoming careless from long neglect. Those who did not attend were chiefly Highland people—several of whom in that quarter I understood had expressed their indifference about preaching unless in their own tongue, a spirit which doubtless indicates indifference to the gospel itself, for wherever there is a thirst for the word of life, it will be acceptable even where the language in which it is expressed, is imperfectly understood. Evidence of this has been furnished in Highland congregations, where individuals have attended who understood only a few words of what was spoken. At both meetings however, and in the neighbourhood, I found a few individuals much concerned about the spiritual destitution which prevailed, and who expressed their resolution to take immediate steps for obtaining a more full supply of ordinances, and an earnest desire for my visiting and preaching to them on my return. I was much affected with my reception by a woman in one of the families which I visited, and who as soon as she learnt what I was, eagerly seized my hand and burst into tears, saying she was thus affected at seeing a Presbyterian minister, not having seen one for the space of a year; that she felt the want of Divine ordinances, the more from having enjoyed them so amply where she lived before in the Lower Province, from which she and her husband had lately removed, that the minister she attended there, in a letter she had received from him, had expressed his surprise that the Presbyterian population had been so neglected in that quarter. She then burst into tears a second time, indicating how strong and