

tion which Mr. Allan describes, is, yet he gives hopes from the experience that he has had and from the opinion of many intelligent persons, that congregations in connection with our church might eventually be formed and supported; but that in the mean time the aid of missionaries, partly at least supported by missionary funds, would for a period be required; and of these not less than nine would be necessary, adequately to occupy the stations in the Presbytery of Hamilton. What a mournful picture of a vast population, mostly abandoned to total ignorance of the things needful to salvation, or to the influence of wild and visionary delusions! What a field for missionary zeal! What an opening for our church to make herself honorably useful in the Lord's cause!

MR. GARDINER, of Fergus, in the township of Nichol, states that he is the only minister of our church in the district on which he reports, consisting of about 560 square miles. The Presbyterians he reckons to be about 1300, exclusive of American Presbyterians who may number about 180. He mentions the exertions made by the people of Woolwich, to build a church, and that perhaps, £60 or upwards might be raised towards the support of a minister. He states likewise that there is a considerable Presbyterian population in the township of Erin, poor and scattered, much requiring a missionary who could preach both in English and Gaelic, but not able to contribute more than perhaps £25.

THE GORE AND NIAGARA DISTRICTS. At Puslinch there is a large Scotch population, somewhat divided in their sentiments, but who would nevertheless welcome a minister of our church among them, and contribute a small sum to his support. From this towards the head of the lake, and extending back as far as the Grand River, and to St. Catharines, in the Niagara district, there are only Mr. Stark at Dundas and Ancaster, and Mr. Gale at Hamilton, in connection with our Synod. Here is a wide field for the labor of several missionaries, and stations where several ministers might eventually, and even speedily, be settled—as upon the Grand River, where considerable desire for the establishment of a minister of our church has been manifested, and where perhaps half of an adequate stipend might be subscribed—and likewise in Saltfleet where they have built a church—and in Binbrook, taken in connection with it, a clergyman might ere long be supported entirely, and where at present they have only occasional and very rare visits from ministers of our church.

Mr. McGill has the pastoral charge of the church at Niagara, and Mr. McIntosh has a very extensive missionary range in the district; but there are several stations in the Niagara district where much indifference and much irreligion prevails, which call loudly for the labors of missionaries, and where congregations might in the course of time be formed.

Mr. FERGUSON, reports of the district back from Esquesing, that there is a large Presbyterian population, scattered however, and that many have exerted themselves with much zeal to procure the administration of the ordinances of religion among them, but that there are many who are sunk in a sad state of spiritual darkness, and gross neglect of religious duties; that many who make profession of Christ, shew by their neglect of secret and private religious duties that they have only a name to live while they are dead—profess to know God but in works deny him. At Nassagawaga, and at the village of Norval, churches are built and the people, though able to subscribe but little for the support of a minister, might make up from £40 to £50. Even these places, however, are not supplied; and the destitution is otherwise so great that Mr. Ferguson estimates that at least nine or ten missionaries might be regularly and usefully employed in the Presbytery of Toronto. How many souls are here perishing for lack of knowledge and of the means of grace, how many of the rising generation are growing up in ignorance, infidelity, and vice! Surely the sympathy of our christian fellow countrymen will bestir them to lend their aid in removing their evils!

Mr. McKILICAN includes in his report, 18 townships surrounding Lake Simcoe, containing a population of upwards of 12000, of which the majority are Scotch. Mr. McKillican is the only minister of our church who labors in this extensive and populous district. There are Episcopal churches in three of the townships, and three Episcopal clergymen in all, one priest, several Methodist Preachers, one independent, and one Scotch seceder. In Thorah, Eldon, Orillia and Innisfail, there are Presbyterian churches, and in West Gwilliambury, there are two. Thorah, Eldon, Brock and Oro, could each furnish sufficient labor for a minister; and Medonte, Sunnidale, and Nottawasaga, could contribute considerably in conjunction with neighboring settlements to support a minister. Difficulties no doubt must be incurred at first in forming congregations even under advantageous circumstances; and foreign aid might be for some time necessary, but, with so destitute, yet so hopeful a field as that described in Mr. McKillican's report, the exertion ought surely to be made to supply it, and the temporary assistance readily afforded. Mr. McKillican says, "our appeal to our father land when our spiritual apathy and destitution are properly represented cannot, and will not, be in vain; but we have a part to perform—let not the fault be ours; the time is come when by a combined effort both here and at home, the difficulties may be overcome."

Mr. KETCHAN, in his return, embraces the district of Hastings besides the two townships of Murray and Seymour, in the Newcastle district, containing a population of upwards of 13,000. The actual Presbyterian population is not more than 900, but many, the descendants of Presbyterian parents, are included