

ings are well fitted to foster christian sympathy, and, amid the diversity of opinion on minor points, to prove that there is a "unity of the faith," and a "unity of the Spirit"—Com.

MISSIONARY MEETINGS OF THE PRESBYTERY OF LONDON.

Blandford, 20th February, 1855.

MR EDITOR:

It may interest you as well as some of your readers to receive some notices of the Missionary Meetings in the middle division of the Presbytery of London. The first of these was held at Egmondville, on Tuesday, the 6th inst., and from that we proceeded to Brucefield, and held the meeting in the evening. The attendance was good at both places, though more females might have been, were it not for the intense severity of the weather. We were assisted by the missionary who is labouring at the Mitchell Station.

Our next meeting was held at Williams. In that place the friends have erected an excellent building for public worship. It is pewed and will soon, no doubt, have its temporary pulpit supplanted by one more durable and ornamental. We next proceeded to Lobo, formerly connected with the congregation of Williams, but now separated from it, as your readers may have seen reported in a late number of the Record. It would be well for the Presbytery to give as much supply to Lobo as possible, for I was led to understand that there are some seventeen religious denominations in that part of the vineyard.

Our meetings were next held at Dorchester and Yarmouth. As these are country places, and have no settled pastor, the attendance was not large, though, it is believed, it was more numerous at one of these points than on the former year. The frame for a new church is up at Yarmouth, and both these stations intend to combine, and to have a pastor between them.

I might mention before going further, that the Presbytery's lay agent visited the stations with us, that he addressed the people sometimes in the one language, sometimes in the other, and that he sold a number of books in his journeyings, as well as left some others at various points to be afterwards disposed off by some responsible individuals. Our collection at the greatest part of its meetings were taken up for the Home Mission Fund, and I should judge, from what was seen and heard, that the amount will be at least as much if not more, than on any former occasion. When residing over night at Yarmouth, I happened to put my hand on a "memoir of Catherine Brown," a converted Indian, and this leads me to ask, are we ever intending in our corporate capacity as a church, to do anything for the souls of those people? Will no one second me either by speech, writing, or money, when I propose as a church that we take up their case, and make it without delay a legitimate branch of our Home Mission Scheme?

From Yarmouth we proceeded to St. Thomas. This town is rising in importance in its population and buildings, and if its Free Church were made in her own sphere to figure as conspicuously as the Court House in her's, it would just be a charming place. As the evening was dark and rainy when we held our meeting, it was not so favourable for attendance, yet all things considered the attendance was good. The church is to be praised it is said, and notwithstanding the woe pronounced against St. Thomas by a prophet from the United States many years ago, we have more hope than before, that she is not altogether a withered branch, but she is exhibiting signs of improvement.

From St. Thomas we went to Port Stanley to be present at the ordination of the Rev. Mr. Doak, as also to attend the missionary meeting intended to take place on the evening of the same day. The ordination ser-

mons were conducted by the Rev. Messrs. Ross, Scott, and McMillan. Lake Zebulon of old, the people there dwell at the haven of ships, and like her may they "suck of the abundance of the seas and of the treasures hid in the sands." Here, minister and people will frequently find sea-faring men crossing their path, and if spared may have many an opportunity of directing them to cast the anchor of hope within the veil. It is reckoned an auspicious event in the natural world in times of scarcity, for the ports to be opening, and it is hoped that we have something corresponding to this in our ecclesiastical arrangements, since two of our ports were opened in one day; Port Sarma on the west, and Port Stanley on Lake Erie. And we have a third port ready to be opened if we had a mariner to approach it, viz: Port Burwell. At present they worship in the Temperance Hall at Port Stanley, holding it as they do at a rent of £10 per annum, but as they have already purchased a site and procured a deed, they will be enabled before long to procure other church accommodation. Both ordination and missionary meetings were well attended.

Our next meeting took place at Fingal. One of the brethren commended them in three points, viz: that they kept the hour of meeting better than formerly; that there was a greater attendance; and that they had got the pulpit well covered. After meeting, those of the brethren who remained, repaired to the hospitable mansion of Mr. Blackwood, and some of us could agreeably have lingered longer there, it being like the fine air about that the Immortal Dreamer saw Christian enter into when he was half way up the hill of Difficulty. But as the king's business requireth haste, and as we might have lost the missionary roll by taking a nap, we made no tarrying. We next appeared in the Douwich Church, which was lately opened by the Rev. John Scott of London, and the Rev. W. R. Sutherland of Ekfrid. "The people connected with this station alone form a regular audience of about 300. The church is a frame building, neat and commodious, situated in the north-west of the township, on an elevated spot, not far from the river Thames. The settlers by whom this was erected, are chiefly Gaelic speaking persons. It is now ready to form a separate charge as soon as a minister can be obtained for it." The attendance at the missionary meeting was good.

Our next meeting was held at Aldbora. An excellent church has been erected there with its spire pointing heavenward. The old weather beaten frame is out of date now. They have recovered their "good name, which is better than precious ointment," and let their good character be established either in capitals, cities, or illuminated letters, from Dan to Bershoba—from Amherstburgh to Metis. Though the baldness of Gaza be on some of our pulpits, not a shred of cloth nor of tapestry, it is not so in Aldbora. There are now three churches along Talbot Street, all of them with spires, and one of them with a session room. And we hope that bells as well as spires will come into extensive use in our churches. As a court was held in the neighbourhood on the same day, the meeting there was less than it would otherwise have been, but notwithstanding this necessary deduction, the number was larger than formerly.

From Aldbora we passed to Wardsville. From some difficulty the church has not been completed there, but it will be, we trust ere long. We never have attended any meeting in that locality without feeling solemn influence more than ordinary, and the meeting anew with a certain christian friend there was to some of us like cold water to the thirsty soul. Having been appointed at last meeting of Presbytery to supply the Rev. Mr. Tulmie's pulpit for two sabbaths at Lanerkip and Blandford, I could visit no more of the churches and stations. But I trust that in Ekfrid, Moss, Caradoc and London, things will

be found lively as well as elsewhere. I shall conclude with some practical results which have already flowed from these meetings.

1 Yarmouth intends to take up a collection speedily for Foreign Missions in addition to the one already taken up for the Home Mission.

2 The St. Thomas congregation, in addition to their collection at the missionary meeting, are to open a subscription list for missions, and to call a congregational meeting to appropriate it to some proper object.

3 A number of valuable books have been sold.

4 Additional concern by the grace of God has been awakened in the minds of speakers and hearers about the claims of perishing souls at home and abroad. "It is a fine ornament to a true church to have a large church porch, or a wide bosom for reception of all that come thither to worship. This was commanded to the Jews, and their glory shone when they did accordingly." "And it shall come to pass in what place the stranger sojourneth, there shall ye give him his inheritance, saith the Lord God."

I remain, yours in the Gospel,
W. GRAHAM.

VISIT TO OWEN SOUND AND SAUGEEN.

BY DR. BURNS.

February, 1855.

It was on Tuesday, February 6th, I left Toronto by the Northern Railway, having previously arranged to preach that evening at Nottawasaga, and next day at St. Vincent and Ephrasia. The day was intensely cold; the thermometer standing at thirty-two below zero when we left the city; so that the cars did not reach Barrie, sixty-five miles, before three in the afternoon. The intense cold, frost, and snow, rendered it impracticable to proceed farther that night; and, as I afterwards learned that, from these same causes, no arrangements had been definitely made on the spot for religious services at the stations, there had been no disappointment, and the places intended to be visited could all be taken up on my way back from the Sound. Tuesday night I passed under the hospitable roof of our tried friend, Mr. Alexander, Crown Land Agent at Barrie. An opportunity was thus given me also of paying a visit to our brother, Mr. McKenzie, in whose induction at Innisfil and Barrie I had some time before taken a part. My intercourse with him and his excellent partner was very pleasant, and I earnestly hope that the valuable experience they have both acquired in another field, will meet with its adequate scope and deserved reward in the united mission circuit of Barrie, Innisfil and Esso. Next day, two gentlemen proceeding in the same direction, joined with me in hiring a two-horse sleigh, and we got on through Sunnidale and Nottawasaga to Collingwood, forty miles distance, by nine o'clock at night. This is the terminus of the railroad. Although it has received the name, it is not in the township of Collingwood. It is locally in Nottawasaga, and on the shores of the bay of that name. It is also the terminus of the Huronario Road, one of the lately opened communications betwixt Lake Ontario and Huron. So strong is the impression of the probable rise of this place into importance, that land sold, not many months ago, at two dollars an acre, is now bringing a price varying from twenty or thirty pounds up to two or three hundred, or even more. The Inn here was crowded with visitors, but I got comfortable accommodation, and on Thursday, by the mail conveyance, we weighed up to Sydenham, fifty miles distance, by five in the afternoon. Our friend, Mr. McKinnon, and his family, I was happy to find all in good health; and with them I sojourned from Thursday till Tuesday, engaged