

Perhaps you will be at a loss to discover any reason for such a step; you may be even disposed to condemn it as rash and hasty, if not extremely injudicious. But in truth our course was neither inconsiderately nor unreasonably adopted, as we hope to be able to show. It was not because we had ceased to take an interest in Mr. Bradwood and his work, or because we had any reason to be dissatisfied with him as our agent and representative in the heathen world, that we thought it expedient to divert our funds into another channel. Far otherwise. On the contrary, every year that elapsed, and every communication that we received from him, served only to enhance our estimate of his character as a man and his qualifications as a missionary. Indeed, in his very last letter he speaks of the by-gone year as the most eventful and encouraging of the seven which he has spent in India. Our reasons were simply these: In the first place, we were all agreed that, while the direct advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom was one main object of our collecting funds for the support of a missionary, yet there was another end to be served by these efforts, to which our circumstances as a Missionary Association of Students gave peculiar importance. And that was—the reflex influence which they were fitted to exercise upon our own minds, in the way of kindling a missionary enthusiasm, and giving point and fervour to our prayers. Now, there had been for several years a growing conviction on our minds that the scheme in which we were embarked was failing to secure these most valuable, though perhaps secondary, ends, and that, as a natural consequence of this, we were coming short of the primary end itself,—the raising of the sum requisite for Mr. Bradwood's support. To whatever causes the fact may be attributed, a fact it undoubtedly was, that at the very time when the interest taken by the Church at large in all its missions, and the collections raised for their maintenance, were daily on the increase, there was such a marked falling off in our funds as to leave them utterly inadequate to serve the purpose for which they were designed. This unquestionable and lamented deficiency was generally ascribed to two circumstances—1st, That all those students who had known Mr. Bradwood personally as one of themselves, had finished their course and ceased to be members of the Association; and 2dly, That our funds were just thrown into those of the Foreign Mission Scheme of our Church, where they were merged and lost sight of. On these grounds, then, to obviate the acknowledged evils by removing their alleged causes, it was resolved, with the concurrence of Mr. Bradwood, and by the advice of certain high authorities, that for the future our funds should no longer be devoted to his support. Of course the £5 which you had the generosity to transmit, will be appropriated to the object for which you intended them, along with all other sums which have in a similar manner been specifically destined by the subscribers, which will probably amount this year to something considerable. Hoping, then, that you are satisfied as to the prudence and propriety of the first part of our resolution, we now proceed to give an account of the new plans we have formed, and the new enterprises which we have undertaken.

In the first place, we have determined, if God shall enable us, to give £60 for the support of a missionary among the Irish Roman Catholics. You will be at once struck with the strong similarity between this scheme and your own. Both are inroads into the kingdom of the man of sin; and in these days, when Popery is rising "like a giant refreshed with wine, and from a long sleep," what can better besit the Church of Christ than to be actively anticipating the contest! But there are also certain specialities in the present state of Ireland, which had the effect of strongly drawing our attention towards it as a very interesting missionary field. You cannot be strangers to the fact, that God in his providence has sent very heavy calamities—famine and pestilence—upon that unhappy island; and perhaps you may not be ignorant of the beneficial consequences, in a moral point of view, which these calamities, in themselves so sad, have instrumentally produced. They

have gone far to soften and subdue the hardness of heart, and to impress and solemnize the thoughtless; but more especially to open the eyes of the poor deluded Papists to the utter heartlessness of their Priests, who wring from them their last penny, and then forsake them in the hour of greatest need; and to the true Christian benevolence which prompted the Protestant minister to peril his life in his attempts to do them good. One of our Edinburgh ministers, the Rev. M. Mooly Stuart, who travelled through a great part of Ireland last summer, brought these circumstances prominently before the public. Such a providential call was not to be disregarded. It was a partial opening that might soon again be closed against the truth, if it were not promptly thrust in to fill up the gap; it was an opportunity which we did not create, and which if lost we could not recall. Accordingly, a missionary was sent over at the beginning of winter, whom, as was already mentioned, we mean to support.

Then we have further agreed to devote an equal sum for the support of a missionary who is to labour in the West Port, one of the poorest, most populous, and most neglected parts of our Old Town. It may look a little selfish to concentrate any of our energies, or appropriate any of our funds, to operations earned on in the very bosom of our own metropolis; but we think there are substantial advantages to be derived from such a partition of the field of labour, from the contemporaneous prosecution of the good work—*domi forsque*. Besides, the great necessities of the district are beyond all question, and of course the very proximity of the spot renders the neglect of it all the more disgraceful. It was on the evangelization of the West Port, and such destitute localities, teeming with a population almost as really beyond the pale of Christendom as if they were in the heart of Africa, that the last energies of our venerated and lamented Chalmers were spent; that lay nearest his heart as the time of his departure drew near.

Such is a brief account of what we have engaged to do. The destination of any surplus funds that may be collected, will be fixed by the Association, at its last meeting, which will be held in about a month from this date.

We cannot, of course, in our collective capacity, give any formal answer to your urgent request that some of us would go over and help you; at the same time, we have no doubt that, while we are all, we trust, as Christians, prepared to go wherever the Lord has any work for us to do, we are, also, as Scotchmen, fully alive to the strong and peculiar claims of Canada. We are, as you know, besieged by applications of a similar nature from every quarter of the globe; and as every successive case is represented as more necessitous than another, you need not wonder if, amidst these conflicting calls, we should be somewhat at a loss to discover the path of duty. And yet we may rest assured that, if in all honesty and singleness of heart we make this our aim, our path will be made plain, and grace will be given us to enter on it. We fear, however, we cannot hold out any great prospect of sending you out any Gaelic preachers for some time to come. Many important congregations in the North are at present without a minister, and the proportion of Gaelic students among us is but small; so much so, that it was with difficulty that one could be procured to act as our missionary in Ireland, where the Gaelic or Irish tongue is all but indispensable.

Let it not be thought that we are in the least disposed to disregard your earnest appeal. Many of us, we believe, did in heart respond to it, and will, at some future date, when we are in circumstances personally to entertain the question, cheerfully say, "Here am I, Lord, send me." Meanwhile, as members of Christ, and in him members one of another, let us "comfort ourselves together, and edify one another, even as also we do"—as expectant heirs of the glory that is to be revealed, let us "exhort one another; and so much the more as we see the day approaching"—and as good soldiers of Jesus Christ, let us mutually encourage our hearts for that great spiritual conflict which cannot now be far distant. "Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father,

which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work."

Signed, in the name of the Association,
ROBERT RAY, President.
ROBERT TAYLOR, Secretary.

Address—Robert Taylor, Secretary,
New College Missionary Association,
Edinburgh.

Home Missions.

THE FRENCH CANADIAN MISSION OF MONTREAL.

In the *Record* for March will be found a letter from the esteemed Missionary at Bellevue. We have much pleasure in inserting another communication from the same gentleman.

Home Missions, including Missions to the French Canadians, ought to be the first and principal enterprise of all the Evangelical Churches of Canada. We take a lively interest in the operations of the French Canadian Missionary Society, and shall rejoice to see its educational institutions and missions receiving increased support. Our correspondent at Bellevue informs us that the school for girls, mentioned in his former communication, is increasing. He attaches great importance to the obtaining a female assistant for the institution. But it is perhaps too much to expect that any one should volunteer her services for such a department of labour. The ordinary law of all labourers in the spiritual field is, that they should be sent. Some one congregation or Missionary Association might furnish the assistant which the Bellevue institution requires. Mr. Doucet makes the following remarks in regard to some of the qualifications of such an assistant:—

"You will hear with satisfaction that our boarding-school for young Canadian girls at Bellevue, is now in full operation. They are now eight in number, and we are expecting several more. We shall, however, not receive beyond a limited number, for want of room, as well as because of the expenses; and besides, Mrs. D. is already overburdened. We are still expecting our much-needed assistant. I forgot, in my last letter, to mention that she should already be somewhat acquainted with the French language; at least, so far as to be able to teach occasionally the first rudiments of that language, to the beginners, and also to be able to converse with Mrs. D. about the interests and the management of the school, and other daily matters. Our assistant should, therefore, not expect that Mrs. D. would be able to give her stated French lessons. That would be beyond her physical strength, and would also interfere with her duties towards the school, to which she is devoting nearly all her time. However, any intelligent assistant, hearing continually French spoken, or taught to others, studying also privately, would, in a very short time, acquire a perfect and practical knowledge of that language."

We trust that it is hopeful for Knox's College that the first student who has completed an academic course in that institution, is devoted, and that on the call of his fellow-students, to missionary labour amongst the French Canadians. The Synod has already formally recognized the importance of this field of missionary labour, and recommend it to the Home Mission Committee. And we are hopeful that we shall be able to announce, in our present number, some resolutions of the Committee, tending to use the Church to more energetic measures, for the evangelization of the benighted Romanists of Canada East.

At the period of the Reformation, the power of