

of the Missionary Society, in regard to the scheme then laid before it, for the appointment of a General Superintendent of our Canadian Missions. The proposal was by no means a new one; the necessity for a better oversight of our feeble and struggling churches, than it was possible for any Secretary to give them, while himself a pastor, having been long felt. For the want of it, many a faithful Missionary has been compelled to abandon his flock, and seek some greener-looking pasture ground in the neighbouring States of Vermont, or Michigan, or Illinois. The very morning after the proposal was laid before the Society in Toronto, we received a letter from an ex-Canadian Pastor, now settled in one of the Western States, in which he says :—

“My brief sojourn in Michigan, and briefer visit to Illinois, convinces me of the importance of having a Missionary Secretary wholly devoted to the work of watching over our Missionary Churches, both those that have, and those that have not Pastors, who could visit them, and new localities where churches ought to be organized.

“With such an oversight on the part of an Agent of the Missionary Society, many of our brethren might be saved from the tyranny that sometimes exists in our small Missionary Churches, where two or three, or even one or two individuals, take it into their heads that they have not the right man in the pulpit.

“There ought to be a fuller recognition of the right of the Missionary Society to advise and counsel, and I am sure our Congregationalism would not suffer by such a supervision.

“Here there are two Home Secretaries, or as they are sometimes called, “Field Superintendents,” giving their whole time, one in North Western, and the other in Eastern Michigan, to the organizing of new Churches, visiting others, and corresponding with a view to securing pastors for existing churches.

“Throughout this section of the State, the churches are young, and many of them weak; yet there is a feeling of strength and unity among them, owing to this oversight, which I think we have lacked in the Dominion. Do not think that I am dictating. I am not. I want to see our churches gathering strength and increasing in numbers. But my heart has been sorely grieved over the circumstances that have separated me from brethren I loved so well. And I tell you, the pecuniary interests of my family *would not alone* have brought me here. But I cannot separate myself from you in heart and interest in your work.”

The letter from which we have quoted was not sent for publication, and was written, apparently, without any knowledge of what was in contemplation among us. It is all the more valuable, therefore, for the testimony it bears to the existence of this long-felt denominational want. We fear our brother is not the first Canadian Pastor whom we have lost from this cause.

This new movement, however, necessitates a large increase of denominational zeal and liberality, without which it must prove, to a great extent, abortive. Not only does the Missionary Society bear its proportion of the salary of the new Secretary, but one of the very objects for which the office has been created