

bours, and I maintain there is not a class of men more heavily taxed, both as to body and mind, than ministers in rural districts, and at the same time whose labours are more poorly remunerated and often highly esteemed, not only by those for whose spiritual improvement they spend their strength, but also by others who know nothing at all of the hardships and discouragements of a country minister's life.

It was a matter of sincere gratification to me to know that, though we have been hitherto unable to grant a supply of service to this part of our vacancies, yet the people have not been destitute of the means of Grace. I hope the time may soon come when the number of labourers will be so increased as to bear some proportion to the demand for them.

Respecting the pecuniary support which is given by the people to the ministers of the different denominations in that locality, it must be altogether inadequate to meet the common demands of life. Were the foreign supplies, which of necessity they must receive, withdrawn, in a very short time they would be obliged to betake themselves to some other field of labour where they would be better remunerated, or according to the advice of an eminent clergyman prosecute some handicraft, which would ill suit the discharge of the important duties they have engaged to perform.

The time has not yet arrived for the Townships to support Religion upon the Voluntary principle. There are deficiencies there, which it will take time to supply. The country is not yet sufficiently settled; the people are yet too poor to give an adequate support to Clergymen; their own demands are such as to exact from them what little they can command; there is a great want both of mental and moral culture; the importance and necessity of a thorough system of education are to a great extent unfelt and unknown. The people are not yet ripe for a self-supporting system of Religion. And little do I estimate that man's philanthropy or patriotism that would wrest from a people so situated that which is instrumental in continuing among them the means of Grace. They must remain a little longer under the fostering care of other parties, and learn some important lessons, which as yet they know but very imperfectly.

Having sent notice to the congregation of Melbourne that I would preach to them on the first Sabbath of this month, I went out on Friday, intending to visit as many of the families as I possibly could during my short stay, but from the condition of the roads I was prevented from carrying my purpose into effect. On Sabbath I preached to a congregation of fifty people, the day being very unfavourable, and the roads almost impassable, so that the people could not come from any distance. The trying and painful circumstances, in

which this vacancy was lately placed, give it a demand upon our sympathies which, I hope, will be readily responded to.

A short time ago the congregation of Melbourne was in a flourishing condition; but, from causes well known to the readers of the Presbyterian, it has been checked in its growth, and blasted in its fondly cherished hopes. At the last meeting of Presbytery the Rev. Messrs. Thom and McGill were appointed to preach at Melbourne during the month of January; Mr. Thom to preach the preceding Sabbath, and Mr. McGill to succeed him to dispense the ordinance of the Lord's Supper. I trust that nothing will prevent these gentlemen from fulfilling their engagements. A disappointment to a vacancy tells sadly against it. The Clergymen who have visited Melbourne are impressed with the importance of rendering the congregation there all the assistance that can possibly be given.

In consequence of the Atlantic Railroad passing through it, Melbourne has become a place of importance. It commands the neighbouring Townships, where many of our countrymen are located. From its proximity now to Montreal (only four hours are spent in traveling between the two places), and from the prospect of equal, if not, greater advantages to be derived from its nearness to Quebec, when that part of the road will be finished, it will be an easy matter then, when emigrants arrive at Quebec, to visit the hitherto locked-up Townships, and find there inducements to settle, without proceeding farther. In a very short time Melbourne will be within an hour's travel of Sherbrooke, the capital of the Townships. Taking all things into account, we should not overlook the congregation of Melbourne. A little aid will do much to strengthen the weak and encourage the desponding. The flourishing congregations in the county of Beauharnois are much indebted to the Rev. Dr. Mathieson, and his elder Mr. Brodie, for their labours of love among them in times past when they were, like their neighbours, weak and scattered. Let us imitate the example, and stretch forth the helping hand to our brethren in the hour of need. By timely assistance being rendered, Melbourne will become a flourishing congregation. But let us not be anticipated. I trust the day is at no great distance when a faithful and zealous pastor shall be seen among this scattered flock, leading them to the green pastures and still waters which the Good Shepherd of Israel has so abundantly provided for the sheep of His fold. Let Melbourne be once well supplied, and in a short time our congregations in that District will increase.

Lachine, November 24th, 1851.

UNIVERSITY OF QUEEN'S COLLEGE.

The Eleventh Session of this University commenced on the 1st current, and the public opening

took place in the Hall of the College yesterday at two o'clock in the presence of the Principal and Professors, and other gentlemen belonging to the city. After prayer by the Principal, the Statutes of the University and the Laws and Regulations for its good government were read; the Principal then proceeded to deliver his Introductory Address to the Students, directing their attention generally to the course of Studies on which they were about to enter, and the proper mode of pursuing them. Towards the close of the Address a feeling allusion was made to the death of a promising Student who took his degree of Bachelor of Arts in April last, who was prematurely and suddenly cut off by fever during the Summer.

We understand the number of Students, now attending the University, is about the same as that of last Session, when there was a considerable increase. *Kingston Daily News.*

No doubt even that number of matriculated Students, as in the other Colleges in Canada, although in point of the number of these it will bear comparison with any of them, is but small, compared with those attending similar institutions in Great Britain. But in a thinly peopled country like Canada, in which the pecuniary means of its population are yet so scanty, and manual labour so general and necessary, in which the elementary instruction previously required is often very imperfect, though gradually being improved, and in which the rewards of a higher education are yet comparatively few, it cannot be expected that the number should be great for years to come; nor is it, if we may so say, desirable that it should. The taste for Literature and Art will grow and spread over the country; but, to be healthy, in the present circumstances of the Province, it must be a plant of somewhat slow growth. We do not want men quickly to issue from our Colleges, but to be thoroughly trained in all branches of useful learning and fitted to be the means of promoting the welfare and stability of the land. Under the assiduous and tender care of those entrusted with its management, the progress of the University of Queen's College will be steadily and surely onward. And we trust that in the system of instruction pursued in it, as well as in every other College within our borders, the example of our venerable fathers in Old Scotland will be followed. Let Literature and Science ever be made the handmaids of Religion; and then will rise up in Canada a virtuous and well-informed people, a right-hearted, as well as a gallant race, who will repel every attempt on the liberties and institutions of their country.

Our readers can hardly have forgotten the very interesting accounts, brought Home by both of the Deputations sent by the Colonial Committee to Canada, of the eagerness of the people, whom they addressed, to hear the Word of Life, and the fervour and delight with which they joined in the celebration of religious ordinances. We extract the following account of a communion-season at Dalhousie Mills, Canada, communicated to the Editor of the "*Presbyterian*" by one of the clergymen who officiated. It gives but a simple narrative of facts; but it may remind our congregations at Home of the duty which they owe to others less favourably situated.—*Home and Foreign Missionary Record.*