

Rev. Mr. Skinner's Letter to the Editor.

*To the Editor of the Presbyterian Magazine.*

Rev. Sir—One valuable object in view by your Magazine, is to present to your readers Missionary intelligence. The Church of which we form an interesting portion is a Missionary Church, and she is now sustaining well that holy character. The "Missionary Presbytery of the Canadas" is her right hand in her missionary efforts. I hope, therefore, that some account of our missionary labours, in the land of our adoption—now our beloved home—shall occasionally occupy your pages, and gratify your readers.

Soon after my Pastoral relation was formed, in 1840, with the congregations of the English Settlement, and Bethel, on the Proof Line, London, I became aware of the want of religious privileges by many in the country around. My congregations had voluntarily given their Minister their solemn pledge, that they should leave him and his family without carefulness as to temporal support. Responding to this truly Scriptural engagement to duty, he resolved, as far as he should be enabled, to spend and be spent in the work to which he was called. He viewed himself, now, as the Missionary of his own Congregation, as well as one of those of the United Secession Church. Two stations were opened in the remote parts of the township—one in the Irish and another in the Welsh settlement. These are still sustained. The gospel seems to be acceptable. The services are on week day. In both of them we have some Church members.

He regards, however, as his most important sphere of missionary labour, the township of Adelaide. The Rev. Mr. Proudfoot had on some occasions visited that township, and preached in it. Still, that the Presbyterian population might be benefitted by our mission, they had to be sought out. In the autumn of 1840, four stations were opened in Adelaide, and two in the adjoining township of Warwick—three on the Egremont road, and three off, in other settlements. These were sustained by monthly week-day sermon, except, in a few instances, when the state of the roads prevented. In October, 1841, the supply in Warwick was discontinued—partly, because the labour was so great; the distance, in going and returning, not being less than ninety miles of roads, always tedious, and often difficult—but, chiefly, because a student of the Congregational Theological Academy had begun to labour regularly in that neighborhood.

It is encouraging to state, that Presbyterians in Adelaide, formerly altogether destitute of a dispensation of public ordinances, seem to value their privileges, and to profit by them; others also make the same acknowledgment. They love to speak of them as very precious, and as being greater than they once expected they should enjoy. They greet the missionary with heartfelt, and, he thinks, with Christian affection. It would be difficult to over estimate the overflowing of kindness which proceed from