

set of mere visionaries, who appear to take it for granted that reason, common sense, and even common decency, ought to have as little as possible to do with religious duties, just as if, because they are among the things generally speaking, "highly esteemed among men," they must therefore be "an abomination in the sight of God." More than once have I heard allusions made to such scriptural expressions as these, with the professed view of justifying the grossest and most indecent extravagancies by their acts of divine worship. This poison of Arminianism too, less or more mixes itself up with all their ideas of christian doctrine; and many of them are so ignorant, or so unsettled in their religious opinions, that I know not what absurdity, be it ever so monstrous, they may not by a little tact and management, be induced to assent to and receive. Sabbath desecration is, in many instances, so common as to have almost ceased to be regarded as criminal; though I am told it is much less general than it was some years ago. More than a third part of the population of this district, or about 7,000 individuals are unbaptized.

5. With the exception of Southwold and Yarmouth, the number of Presbyterians throughout this district, is extremely small—scarcely 300 including both Scotch and Irish of that denomination. The great bulk of the inhabitants are Canadians and other Americans, who are in general either attached to one or other of the Methodist bodies, or have no religious denomination. There are a great many Dutch settlers, especially in Walsingham and the contiguous townships, who generally connect themselves with the Baptists. In the township of Walpole, there are about 130 Scotch and Irish Presbyterians; about 70 in Simcoe, Victoria, Port Dover and the vicinity of these villages; about 40 in the township of Bayham; and probably 100 more scattered up and down through the other townships, particularly Malahide and Houghton along the lake shore.

6. The situation of the Presbyterians in respect to religious instruction and ordinances, is truly deplorable. In several instances I have met with persons who had not heard sermon from a minister of our church, for twelve, sixteen, eighteen and twenty years, except on one occasion some years ago, when the Rev. Mr. Bell was among them. A great many of their children are unbaptized. They have no other public means of grace than those which are afforded by the occasional visits of Methodist and Baptist preachers or exhorters, whose mode of expounding scripture, and of dis-

pening religious ordinances in general, they so much dislike, that in most cases they prefer remaining at home to uniting with them in acts of public worship. There are, as I have stated, only three stations in the whole of this district, occupied by the Church of England; and except for the very few individuals belonging to that body, who are scattered up and down the country, it would not in all probability greatly improve the moral and religious aspect of society here, were that number trebled; as many individuals, both of the natives and of the old country settlers here, have repeatedly assured me, that among the people generally, the forms of that church are extremely unpopular, and that many would willingly connect themselves with a Presbyterian congregation, were one formed in their vicinity, who have long resisted all such connection with the Episcopalians. The smallness of their number, and the circumstance of their being so widely scattered, seeming to forbid all hope of obtaining a settled minister, have hitherto prevented the Presbyterians within this district, from giving practical evidence of those desires which I believe they have long and ardently cherished on this subject. But all of them with whom I have conversed, express their willingness to aid the Presbytery of Hamilton, to the utmost of their power, in supporting a Missionary of our church, should the Presbytery at any time have it in their power to locate one among them.

7. If regard be had exclusively to the number of Presbyterians it is manifest from the preceding statements, that no opening at present presents itself within these bounds for a minister of our church. If however any importance can be attached to the opinion, once and again expressed, of several very intelligent and respectable Scotchmen, long resident in these parts, there is sufficient reason to believe that were a faithful minister of our church once located in any of the now populous parts of the district, or for example in Simcoe or Bayham, many individuals of other denominations would gladly contribute to his support. I do not think that from the Presbyterians alone at each of these stations more could be obtained annually for the maintenance of a minister than from £30 to £100 currency. The Presbyterians in Walpole, though much more numerous, could not, I am persuaded, afford so much, as they are generally speaking, in very straitened circumstance.

2. To supply the wants of the Presbyterian population settled up and down within the bounds of this Presbytery, in a satisfactory manner not fewer than nine missionaries would be necessary viz. three to the east of the Grand River, three be-