

cant. These congregations had ministers of our Church steadily labouring among them for some time, but, for some years, many of their places of worship have not been opened, except when services were offered by clergymen from other localities. These occasions—few and far between—are the only opportunities afforded to many of the people of listening to the Gospel of Christ, preached by a minister of the Church they call their own. Excepting the occasional sermon thus given, we believe the greater part of their number is almost entirely shut out from the privilege of coming up to the house of God. The wide extent of country which each congregation occupies, a circumstance peculiar to all congregations in newly-settled districts, renders it impossible for many of them, for the aged especially, to repair to the churches which are supplied. They are thus left, in their declining years, Sabbath after Sabbath, to mourn over their wants, and, alone in their solitary dwellings, remember and sigh for the privileges they once enjoyed. How painful must it be to those who love the house of God, and especially to those who were accustomed, in their youth, regularly to attend its solemn services, to be thus in their old age excluded from it! Eleven years without ordinances is a long period of destitution, and it must be admitted to be sorely trying to the patience and to the firmness of these people. After such proofs of devotedness to our Church, how can we say to these congregations, "you had better make application to some of the other denominations." And for any man, who feels the value of religious ordinances, and knows the dread consequences that have ever resulted from the want of them, to communities, how difficult must it be to ask or advise these congregations to remain much longer in their present destitute condition!

But when we speak of the destitution that exists in the county of Pictou, we are bringing under notice but a very small portion, and that too, the least pressing and painful of the wide-spread spiritual wants that prevail within the bounds of our Synod.

In Cape Breton and Prince Edward Island there are immense multitudes fondly attached to the Church of Scotland, and wholly destitute of Gospel ordinances in connexion with her. They were brought up in that Church. They call her the Church of their fathers. The strength and firmness of their affection to her are known in the fact that, notwithstanding the many attempts made to alienate their feelings, their attachment still continues unabated. In Cape Breton there are about 5000 who adhere to our Church. Application after application has been made to us by that large and destitute population, but, much and deeply as we feel for them, we have not been able to respond to the earnest appeals they have made. They are a Gaelic speaking people, and there are but three of our ministers who can preach in that language,

and these have so many districts, each to attend to, that it is impossible for them to give any assistance.

In Prince Edward Island we have, according to last census, a population of 8000, and what has been said of Cape Breton applies to this province in every particular almost. Of too many of them we fear it may be said that they have never enjoyed the ordinances of religion since they left their homes in the Highlands of Scotland.

In these circumstances, we feel called upon, by the attachment which binds us to our Church, and especially by the anxiety we must cherish for the precious souls of our dear people, who have none to break to them the bread of life, to appeal once more to your Committee, and in the most earnest and pressing manner to ask your aid. We do so with confidence, strengthened by our knowledge of the interest felt by the Church in the welfare of her expatriated children, and by the high opinion we entertain of the zeal and devotedness of her licentiates. The Church has already done much for Nova Scotia, and most gratefully do her people here remember and speak of it. We know at what expenses the several deputations were sent. They did much to revive and strengthen the affections of many thousands to the Church of their fathers. Those who for years had been obliged to listen to every species of railing against the Church of Scotland had in this the pleasure of knowing how little true mingled in these bitter reproaches. But the services rendered by these deputations will, in a great measure, be lost, if some assistance of a more permanent nature be not speedily sent, to enable us, with better prospects of success, to attempt to cultivate the wide and waste fields that lie within our bounds. The visits of these deputations were, with a depth of feeling to which words can give no adequate expression, hailed as a pledge, and distinctly understood to be so, that the Church means not to desert her adherents in this country. And we, the ministers of the Church of Scotland, now labouring here volunteered to go into the midst of this destitution, in the hope, and with the assurance, that we would not be long left to struggle alone. If respect for our sacred office, and if zeal and unfeigned kindness towards ourselves, personally, tend to make our position agreeable and to encourage us in our labours, we have all that. But even this gives rise to feelings of a painful nature.

Thus situated, may we not be assured that our brethren at home will feel for us, and that among them some will be found willing to come to our assistance? We do wonder at the backwardness manifested by the licentiates of our Church, and by this we are indeed much discouraged, Nova Scotia is but eight or nine days' distance from Scotland. To venture thus far from home is not an enterprise of a very arduous nature. There was, we are aware, an impression, some years ago, that our people here were willing to promise the mainten-

ance required for the support of ordinances, but were always careless, if not unwilling, to make good the pledge. This impression, we believe, is now effaced. The report on which it was founded was a misrepresentation. A minister here will be well supported, if at all worthy of support, and the salaries guaranteed will be certainly and punctually paid.

Having submitted these facts, is it too much to ask you to send two or three missionaries, in the course of this year? Can it be that our divinity halls are filled, and that many licentiates are unengaged, and yet none can be found willing to leave Scotland, for a period of three years, if not longer, when claims so strong and urgent, and from a field so near an hand, are demanding their attention and sympathy? We would not, indeed, wish to believe it, and if obliged to do so, it will be with deep regret.

In name and by appointment of the Synod of the Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia,

(Signed) ANDREW W. HERDMAN,  
Convener.

PICTOU, NOVA SCOTIA.  
6th September 1855.

A statement, as to the spiritual wants of the adherents of the Church of Scotland in British North America, was recently made before the Colonial Committee, by one of its missionaries, and, at his request, will be printed in next number.

### Queen's College, Kingston.

The claims of this excellent Institution have been so frequently set forth in the columns of our periodical that we deem it at present only necessary to submit the subjoined documents without any comment.—*Presbyterian*.

AT KINGSTON, AND WITHIN ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH THERE,

Wednesday the Third day of October, One Thousand Eight Hundred and fifty-five years.

The which day the Commission of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, met, and was constituted with prayer by the Rev. Professor Williamson and with the election of the Rev. John B. Mowat as Clerk.

"The interests of Queen's College having been submitted for consideration, and in particular its financial resources in relation to the buildings recently acquired, 'The Commission,' *inter alia*, 'appointed the Rev. Dr. Skinner and Mr. J. B. Mowat a Committee to draw out and transmit to all the Congregations a Circular upon the subject of a collection for the College Buildings,' urging the punctual payment of the instalments still due by those Congregations which have already subscribed, and calling the attention