

blessings in store for that oppressed people. The present is a momentous era in the condition of the African race, and is a signal occasion for the continued prayers and efforts of all who are really solicitous for their welfare, and, above all, for those who seek the extension of Christ's kingdom.

Four millions are now held in bondage in the neighboring States, deprived of their civil rights and robbed of their religious privileges. Their chains are now about to be broken, and those who have long upheld the system of oppression, will probably, very soon, at a vast expense of blood and treasure, have to "undo the heavy burdens and let the oppressed go free." The troubles in the United States will occasion a greater immigration of fugitives into Canada this year than at any former period. The ease with which they can now escape from the border States of the Union, and the facility given to their flight through the Free States, will lead many to seek this country as a home. Hitherto it has been an asylum for thirty thousand who have found their way into the Province, many of whom have landed upon our shores stripped of everything but life. At the West the prejudice against them was strong; when the Mission was established there was a great deal of opposition offered to their settling in that part of the Province. That has now nearly ceased, and although there is still some prejudice, that is also disappearing, and we have good reason to thank God for the measure of success that has already attended our efforts. Our course, in the midst of difficulties, has been onward; there has been a gradual increase both in the Church and School, and although there has been no outpouring of God's Holy Spirit, there has been a growing desire for the Word and Ordinances, and there have been several additions to the communion roll; the Church is regularly organized with a staff of office-bearers, three Elders and three Deacons. There are sixty-six communicants on the roll. The attendance on Sabbath varies from 150 to 250, according to the weather and the state of the roads. Some of the members come six miles through the bush. The Lord's Supper has been dispensed thrice during the past year; three have been removed by death and five dismissed by certificate.

Mr. George Thomson, the Teacher sent out by the Colonial Committee, was laid aside from active duty by sickness in April, 1860; I regret to say that he is still in feeble health. Since that time, with the exception of three months in winter, the male department of the school has been under the charge of Mr. Henry Gracey, one of the students of Knox College, and formerly a pupil of the Buxton Mission School. The female department is conducted by Miss Anna Maria Harris, a young lady from Bristol, England, of a truly missionary spirit. The number of pupils enrolled in both Schools is 103—forty girls and sixty-three boys—the average attendance sixty. The number enrolled in the Sabbath School is eighty—average attendance fifty. In connection with the Sabbath School, there is a Missionary Society, the proceeds of which have been sent by the scholars to the Calabar Mission on the coast of Africa. Besides the Schools at the Mission Station, another has been opened during the summer months for the benefit of the families that live at a

distance from the Mission. The number of pupils enrolled at that school is forty, and in the Sabbath School in connection with it there are thirty. A number of children who can attend neither of these, have been received into the District Schools, near the Settlement, one of which is taught by a young man trained at the Mission School. The whole number of children receiving instruction during the past year is 220, and the number attending Sabbath Schools 118. Four of the pupils attending the Mission School are studying with the view of entering College. One of them is expected to be prepared to enter in October next, and will be supported by the Henderson Bursary, given by John Henderson, of Park, a warm friend of the slave, and a contributor to every good cause.

A Branch of the Upper Canada Bible Society has been established at Buxton during the past year. Previous to that time, 300 Bibles and 500 Testaments have been distributed: all who can read the Word of God have been supplied with a copy of the Scriptures. In addition to the circulation of the Scriptures, eight Tract distributors have been employed during the past year, who have visited all the families in the Settlement every two weeks and distributed among them five hundred covered tracts. These have been carefully read, and from some of the districts, the tract distributors give encouraging reports. The Synod, at its Annual Meeting, held in Hamilton, June, 1858, appointed the Rev. Dr. Burns and Mr. King a Committee to consider the best means of obtaining funds for the erection of new buildings in connection with the Mission at Buxton. The Committee opened a correspondence with several parties both in the United States and Great Britain, from whom they received assurances that a visit to either or both of these countries on behalf of the Mission would in all probability raise the sum required. Immediately after the meeting of Synod in the same year, a Delegation from the General Assembly of the Irish Presbyterian Church visited Canada, and spent some days at Buxton. They held a public meeting with the settlers, and felt such an interest in the Mission that they requested the Committee to visit Ireland the following summer.

The Synod at its next meeting, in June, 1859, appointed Mr. King to visit the Mother Country, Dr. Burns being unable at that time to accompany him, and in the words of the Minute authorized him "to proceed faithfully to Great Britain and Ireland, with a view of diffusing information in regard to an experiment in behalf of the Colonial population of Canada, the success of which has been so gratifying, and empower him to raise subscriptions for re-building the Church and School-House, and for the general purpose of the Mission."

In the discharge of that duty Mr. King proceeded to Ireland, and arrived at Dublin in July, while the General Assembly was sitting, and received from the Brethren a hearty welcome. He visited during the summer months the principal cities in Ireland, and as many of the congregations as possible, holding public meetings and giving information concerning the Colonial refugees in Canada. The result of the visit was satisfactory. Besides subscriptions for the Building Fund, the Directors of the

Board of Missions, at their meeting in December, voted unanimously an annual grant to the Buxton Mission, of £150—this grant to be devoted to the spiritual objects of the Mission.

In May, 1860, I visited with Dr. Burns, and spent two months in advocating the claims of the Mission, receiving contributions for the Building Fund and books for the Library. In the latter part of the summer we visited England, but as the season was far advanced, we visited only a few places and returned to Canada in September. The result of the visit to Great Britain and Ireland has been given in the Financial Statement of the Synod's Committee, an abstract of which I now give:

There was collected for the Building Fund \$4183 33, which is now in the hands of the Treasurer, to be applied to that purpose. An annual grant from the Irish Presbyterian Church, of £150 sterling. A Bursary Fund from John Henderson, Esq., of £36; and from the Ladies of Edinburgh a Library for the Mission, of 500 volumes.

WM. KING.

Proceedings of Presbyteries, &c.

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

This Presbytery met at Hamilton, and within Knox's Church, on the second day of July, and after devotional services, appointed the Rev. Mr. Stark to be Moderator for the current twelve months, and the Rev. Mr. Porteous to be Clerk.

There are at present 18 ministers on its roll, of whom 14 were present. There were, besides, 11 Elders.

Its regular meetings are appointed to be held on the 2nd Tuesday in October, January, April, and July, and the respective sittings of each meeting shall continue from 11 o'clock A.M., to 1 P.M.; from 3 to 6, and from 7½ to 10. The Presbytery's Home Visitation Committee consists of Messrs. Stark, Inglis, and Porteous, with Mr. Stark-Clover.

Messrs. Burns, W. M. Christie, and McCuaig, were appointed a committee to attend to the interests of the Presbyterian people scattered through the township of Pelham. Mr. Wm. M. Christie was also appointed to moderate in the Sessions of Thorold and Drummondville; Mr. Lees in those of Caledonia, India and Oneida; Dr. Ormiston in that of Dundas.

The Presbytery agreed to adopt the following minute:

"The Hamilton Presbytery of the Canada Presbyterian Church, convened by authority of the Synod, cannot refrain, on the occasion of their first meeting, from recording, and do hereby record an expression of their profound feelings of devout and lively gratitude to Almighty God, who has been pleased to vouchsafe such abundant grace to both the late Churches, now so happily one; and who has graciously permitted us to meet together, not only as brethren in the Lord, but as members of the same Court in the house of our God; and while we cordially and affectionately greet each other in the Lord, we earnestly and unitedly invoke the presence of our Master to convalidate and consecrate our first meeting, and believably entreat the guidance of the Holy