

a great increase of Ministers, within the last few years, would be more than sufficient to supply all the vacancies throughout their bounds; but this your Petitioner begs leave respectfully to assure you is far from being the case. The supply of Clergymen has never, in any one instance, kept pace with the increase of population; and at this moment, after so large an emigration from Scotland and the north of Ireland, and when there is such a thirst for the ordinances of religion among the native inhabitants, the destitution is perhaps as great as it was twenty years ago. Your Petitioner feels it is no easy task for him to bring before your Venerable Court, at a single glance, a clear and vivid and graphic view, either of the nature or the extent of that destitution, as none but those who have personally visited the humble settlers, living solitarily in the woods, and have frequently conversed and associated with them and their families, can either clearly comprehend, or adequately commiserate their forlorn condition. It is difficult, perhaps impossible, for those who are living in a highly cultivated state of society, to form a proper conception of the disadvantages and privations of persons who are without churches, without religious instructors and Divine ordinances. When your Venerable Court then learns that this is the situation, not of one or a few individuals, but of hundreds and thousands of families in British America; that there are at this moment, within the bounds of the Synod of Nova Scotia, from fifteen to twenty thousand souls, many of them emigrants from this highly favoured and happy land, and not a few of them, in early life, members of our Venerable Church, who have no stated ministry, and seldom an opportunity of hearing the Gospel; and when you consider still farther, the deplorable condition of their young families, who are growing up in the wilderness in a state of great mental darkness and religious indifference, you must be inclined to admit, that a very strong case is brought home to your friendly notice and compassionate regard. Were it necessary, your Petitioner might easily enlarge upon this awful destitution, and darken the picture, by presenting at the same time the urgent necessities of the new settlers throughout the Canadas; and as he is the only Minister from these Colonies at present in Scotland, and deeply sympathises with his brethren in these remote regions, he might feel himself in some measure justified in so doing, for the interests of all the Colonial Churches are the same, their wants are similar, and they have all great need of foreign aid. But as your petitioner is acting in the name and by the authority of the Synod of Nova Scotia, he feels himself bound in an especial manner to direct your friendly attention, and awaken your sympathetic feelings in behalf of the new Settlers in that Colony—a Colony to which he is strongly attached, and from whose inhabitants of all ranks and conditions he has uniformly received the most marked and affectionate kindness and regard.

The Settlers who arrive annually on her shores in great numbers from the North and West Highlands, and from the Hebrides, are almost all in very poor circumstances; and although they urgently need, yet they are utterly unable to support the Gospel after their settlement for several years. And they can, at the same time, expect but very little assistance from the Ministers already settled in the Province, who, although warmly attached to their neglected countrymen, enjoy neither the time nor the means for ministering to their spiritual wants. Fatigued in attending to their own scattered flocks, it requires more than ordinary hardihood and fortitude for them to plunge into the thickets of the forest, along almost impassable roads, and across broad arms of the sea, to dispense the ordinances of religion in the open air, or in unfinished houses, to the poor Emigrants. Unable many of them to procure a decent and comfortable maintenance for themselves and their families, they can but ill afford to lay out money in travelling expenses.