

different parts of Australia. The names and localities of those present are as follows:—

Rev. Wm. Henderson, Williamston, Victoria.

Rev. Arch. Simpson, Wemanbool, Victoria.

Rev. George Divorty, Prahran, Victoria.

Rev. Alexander Adam, Aldburg, on borders of Victoria.

Rev. John Moir, neighbourhood of Adelaide.

Rev. Mr. Sinclair, Brisbane, N.S.W.

Rev. James Cameron, Carcoar, N.S.W.

Rev. Archd. Cameron, neighbourhood of Shoalhaven, N.S.W.

Rev. Arthur Paul, neighbourhood of Sydney, N.S.W.

Rev. Hugh McKail, Braidwood, N.S.W.

Of these young ministers I will say the Committee have great confidence in them, both as to fitness and devotedness, and they hold a high place among the youthful band of labourers in which our Church increasingly rejoices. It must be obvious to all that, in the present position of Australia, it is especially necessary, not only to send active, vigorous, and devoted young labourers, but, if possible, to combine with them some of longer standing, and of more experience and maturer years—some of those, if possible, who have mingled in all the scenes, and taken part in all the proceedings of this Church during the ten years of her conflict, and the almost equally interesting and still more important ten years of her separate existence; and it is no breach of propriety, I trust, though the matter be still in dependence, to announce that the Rev. Dr. McKay of Dunoon and the Rev. Mr. Cairns of Cupar, have devoted themselves to this great work, and taken steps for an immediate and permanent removal to that distant region; and two other ministers of standing in our Church have intimated a willingness to go if required.—Long have the Colonists asked for such, and most cordially do we rejoice that we have now the prospect of sending to them men of such high standing—distinguished alike for their abilities, their devotedness, and their success at home. These brethren go out as one with their younger brethren—go out simply as ministers of the gospel in that distant land, and they seek to be distinguished only by their devotedness to their Master's cause there. We now meet for the simple blessed purpose of bidding these brethren farewell, of addressing to them at parting a word of encouragement, and of imploring the blessing of God on them, and on all who have preceded them or who may follow them into that great field of labour

into which they hasten. We have as yet, I fear, no adequate idea of the importance or even largeness of the field on which these labourers enter. We are founding an empire, and these brethren go to labour with those who are called to the great work of forming the principles of that future empire. Villages, cities, and districts are rising up day by day. The rapidity of growth demands corresponding earnestness of exertion. The one city of Melbourne—which had no existence only sixteen years ago, and was a pendicle of New South Wales at a still later date—now emulates this very city (Edinburgh), the slow growth of age, in numbers and in wealth. An intelligent person said this day, that he could scarcely estimate the inhabitants of Melbourne at less than 100,000, and the rental drawn is supposed to be about a million annually. Crowded ships arrive every day in the Bay, and leave their hundreds and their thousands. These are from all lands and of all characters. Into the midst of these thousands bent on money—multitudes of them without any principle, and multitudes with the reverse of every principle—our countrymen are thrown—the old, the poor, the weary, the young, the inexperienced. Surely it is most needful to send ministers who may watch over them; surely these ministers will need much of the spirit of wisdom, and of power, from on high; and most meet, therefore, it is that we should unite together in prayer for them. What but strong faith—looking beyond this world, and living above it—what but ardent love—love to God and love to man—what but elevated hope—hope pointing to the heaven of glory above, and also to the future glorious triumphs of the gospel in these lands—can animate and cheer them? and how are we or they to obtain these but by prayer? Who can tell what connexion the meeting of this night in this place may have with the future prosperity of Australia, with the maintenance of those great principles to which we have been called to bear witness in our own land, and which are so important in every land, with the planting and progress of the glorious gospel in the new world, and with the spread of the same gospel to the heathen masses of China and India, the Islands of the South Sea, and the whole southern hemisphere—in a word, with the coming of that promised day, when, literally, “incense and a pure offering shall ascend to God from the rising to the setting of the sun.”