

prevented him from paying his dues. To avoid, then, the cowardice which on such occasions compels a man to absent himself, or, if he attend, to be free from such an unmanly position and the pangs of such painful feelings as non-payment of promised contributions create, let him be honest and true to his word to support Gospel ordinances.

After divine service conducted by Mr. Stewart, of McLellan's Mountain, the Presbytery was constituted, and the prescribed questions were put by the Moderator to the Minister, Elders, and Trustees. The replies given by them showed the congregation to be in a healthy condition. They are doing their duty faithfully and efficiently. The average attendance at divine service on the Lord's Day is good. The kirk-session complained that the same thing could not be said of the attendance at the prayer-meeting. The reason for this is that the prayer-meeting is held at eleven o'clock in the forenoon of the first Monday of every month. It was felt by all that the only thing in favour of such an hour was its great antiquity. While it might suit the aged and infirm, and for their convenience and benefit it should probably be continued, it is most unsuitable for the young and the busy. It was therefore suggested to the kirk-session whether or no it would be advisable to have a prayer-meeting at such an hour and on such a day as would afford an opportunity to the younger part of the congregation to attend. This suggestion we have no doubt will be considered and acted upon in the same spirit of Christian interest and zeal which characterize the kirk-session in adopting and using other agencies for the promotion of the temporal and spiritual welfare of the congregation under their charge.

On the following day the Presbytery, for a similar purpose, met in the church at Cape John. This is a part of the congregation under the pastoral charge of Mr. Fraser, who gives two-thirds of his pulpit and pastoral ministrations to the congregation of Roger's Hill, and one-third to this congregation. The two churches in which he officiates are distant from one another nine or ten miles. His field of labour is therefore extensive and arduous.

After divine service conducted by Mr.

Anderson, of Wallace, the Presbytery proceeded to examine into the state of the congregation. Here, as well as at Roger's Hill, matters affecting the temporal and spiritual welfare of the congregation showed the same signs of congregational life and progress.

After partaking of a substantial dinner at the hospitable table of Mr. Grant, Elder, the members of Presbytery set off for River John, where the Presbytery was appointed to meet in the evening to examine the congregation in this pretty and thriving village. After a couple of hours travel in a keen, cutting north-west wind, and over a sleigh-track which wound and crawled in the most serpentine manner through meadows and ploughed fields, we reached, about sunset, the manse. After getting our horses put up in the ample and well-filled barn of the minister, and a warming of hands and feet at his fireside, we repaired to the church. By this time—about 7 P. M.—the sky was overcast with storm-clouds, and the wind increased in strength and fierceness, rushing and howling and whining over field and forest, rattling the window-frames, then rushing with a sound of play and mischief around the corner of the building. Such a stormy evening did not promise a large attendance of the congregation. True and zealous, it was thought, they would be who would leave a warm and cosy fireside to face such a stormy night, even the anticipating to meet and hear such an influential and learned and pious a body as the Presbytery of Pictou. But that the congregation at River John contains such true and zealous men and women, was made patent by the number who assembled. In better weather, and at a more seasonable hour, and in larger congregations, the Presbytery has had to meet congregational gatherings not so large as the one at River John on this evening.

The usual order of procedure was reversed on this occasion. The divine service, which was conducted by Mr. Herdman of Pictou, followed instead of preceding the Examination by the Presbytery. After the Presbytery had been constituted, the Moderator put the question to Ministers, Elders, and Trustees. The state of this young congregation is good and prom-