

## REPORT.

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WE have come up once more to our annual gathering, you to receive, and we to render, an account of our Stewardship. Another year in our annals has gone, and borne its records to the treasure house of the past. We would now glance briefly over the records of the year, noticing its lights and its shadows; and we are happy to say in the outset that there is in our course much more to cheer than to depress. The year has been marked by progress and unquestionably we may invite the Friends of this Mission "to thank God and take courage."

Our last Report shewed that the Committee were fully persuaded of the desirableness of fixing upon some central point around which to gather such of our wandering Brethren of the Micmac tribe as were willing to adopt a fixed residence, and accept of steady employment in such arts as they already practise, or might easily acquire. In which case their children might be educated, and parents and children together might receive, line upon line of Religious Instruction, here a little and there a little. Sufficient reasons were assigned in our last report for arriving at such a conclusion, and the lessons of experience acquired by Missionaries to other Indian tribes were adduced in support of this view.

After the Annual Meeting of 1853, therefore, the first object to which the Committee and Missionary directed their attention, was, the carrying into effect of this proposal, which was not only submitted in the Report, but cordially sustained and approved by the speakers and Public Meeting held in Salem Chapel. At a meeting of the Committee held three days subsequently, it was Resolved unanimously, "That in the opinion of this Committee the time has arrived when it will be desirable to take the first steps towards founding a Missionary establishment, from which as a central point, the operations of the Mission may be conducted, and where permanent employment may be provided for the Indians, and instruction afforded to their children.

The neighbourhood of Hantsport having been thought by some of the Indians, whose opinion had been asked, and also by our Missionary, a suitable locality, the Committee recommended Mr. Rand to proceed thither without delay, and to judge on the spot of its eligibility for the purposes contemplated. Mr. Rand soon