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Presbyterial Visitations.

One marked feature in the working of the Church in the Maritime Provinces, is the increasing prominence given to Presbyterial Visitation.

Within the last few weeks the Presbytery of Pictou has held visitations in six different congregations. Halifax Presbytery has been divided into three parts and the visitation of all the congregations within the bounds is being energetically carried out; ten or twelve visitations having been thus held within the last two months. Truro, and Victoria and Richmond, have also begun work in the same line, and the widely scattered Presbytery of Miramichi has made arrangements for the visitation of eight of its congregations during the coming winter.

Presbyterial visitation of congregations is pastoral visitation on a larger scale, and is just as necessary in order to the healthy and vigorous working of the Church. Presbyteries are the Diocesan Bishops of the Presbyterian Church, and should take oversight of the congregations in their district by frequent visits of inspection.

They are superior to the Diocesan Bishops of Episcopal Churches in that while in those churches there is but one man entrusted with the oversight of a district, in the Presbyterian Church each congregation and minister is under the inspection and control of a Bishopric consisting of the Presbytery, a number of men, a minister and elder from each congregation within the bounds, whose united wisdom and fitness for the work must certainly exceed that of any one man.

Presbyteries in neglecting visitations are throwing away a most valuable element in our church organization, while by thus provoking one another to love and to good works, an exhibition of new life and vigour may be expected throughout our church, the desponding will be cheered, the lagging stimulated to greater diligence, the faithful encouraged to devise yet better things for Christ.

We trust that the work so auspiciously begun is the sign of an awakening to a deeper sense of duty on the part of Presbyteries and that the result will be a revival in every department of the Church's work.

Boxes for the South Sea.

In the letters given below, Messrs. Annand and Robertson gratefully acknowledge the articles sent in December of last year, all of which were received by them in good condition about four months after being shipped from Halifax.

These contributions help much in their work. The missionaries have full scope for all they can give in supplying a few comforts, in the way of food and medicine to their sick and aged Christian people.

Nothing large or expensive is expected from any one congregation. If several congregations would join, if a few new hands would take part, what is wanted would be made up and be no burden to any one.

Hitherto Mr. Robertson has been receiving valuable help in money from the Kirk congregations in Pictou County, but this year that money has been given to the Foreign Mission Committee of the Church of Scotland, and there will be all the greater need for a box of clothing and goods.

Boxes must be made up not later than the 20th. Dec. Any parties requiring any further information will get it by writing to the agent of the Church.