

My appointment of three months at Musquodoboit was completed on Sabbath, May 4th. Having been duly notified by the Convener of the Home Mission Board that my next appointment was one month at Pugwash, I went there during the week. On May 11th, I preached in the forenoon in our church in Pugwash village; in the afternoon in the Hall six miles up Pugwash river. May 18th, forenoon, I again preached in the village church, and in the afternoon in a school house on River Philip. The third Sabbath I preached in the forenoon in the Schoolhouse in Victoria settlement, and in the afternoon in the Baptist Church in the village of Oxford on River Philip. The fourth Sabbath, services were in the Church and Hall as on the first. During this month I visited and got acquainted with most of our people in the Pugwash congregation. Owing to their being scattered over so many settlements they have been long without enjoying much clerical oversight; yet they are very anxious to have a minister of their own, and are willing to contribute liberally to his support. Their scattered and necessitous condition made me sympathize deeply with them. My appointment of four weeks to Pugwash was fulfilled on Sabbath, June 1st.

I was appointed for the next four weeks to Bathurst, N. B. Left Pugwash expecting to be in Bathurst on the 8th, but was recalled to Pictou by tidings of the illness of a brother. On Sabbath, the 8th, the Rev. Mr. McMillan, of Salt Springs, being from home, I preached in his church in the forenoon, and in the School house at the Six Mile Brook in the evening.

My first Sabbath at Bathurst was June 15th. On that day and each of the three following Sabbaths, I preached forenoon and evening in the church in Bathurst. My appointment here has been prolonged for two weeks more. On July 20th, my last Sabbath, it is arranged that I shall preach in Belle Doon in the forenoon, and Bathurst in the evening. I also hold a service occasionally on week days in school houses.

JOHN M. SUTHERLAND.

*Bathurst, July 10th, 1873.*

To the Rev. G. M. Grant, Convener of the Home M. Board, Halifax, N. S.

### CONGREGATIONAL REPORT.

We give the following Report, not as some our readers may suppose—because it is that of a Halifax congregation, but because such reports are the best kind of statistics; and we shall be happy to publish similar printed statements from any or all of our congregations:

REPORT OF THE KIRK-SESSION OF ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH, HALIFAX, FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30TH, 1873, ADDRESSED TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION.

1. Last September 7 names were added to our Communion Roll; In November, 21; and in April 22;—or in all 50, while during the year we lost 30, as nearly as can be estimated, by deaths, or departures from the city or congregation. It is a matter of deep regret that a large number of Communicants attend on the ordinance of the Lord's Supper very irregularly. Slight excuses are often considered sufficient, and thus it happens that a considerable proportion come only once in the year on an average to the Lord's Table. Such a state of things shows spiritual indifference, even deadness,—for no Christian who loves to obey the Lord's dying command can think three times a year too often to do so. No doubt there would be greater regularity if the minister or elders called to ask for the reasons of absence, and expostulated with those guilty of neglect; but it is so great a privilege to be allowed to sit at the Table, that everything that looks like pressing people on this point is avoided. But that it is a specially aggravated sin, *thus* to forsake the assembling ourselves together, there can be no doubt. It is the sin of contempt as well as of unbelief. They who love much, will not let little things keep them back.