

EXTRACTS FROM COLPORTEURS' REPORTS.

We give a considerable part of our space to extracts from the very full and interesting report of one of our colporteurs in Newfoundland. This is the most needy section of our whole field. The Island of Newfoundland, including its extensive Bays, has a coast line of 2000 miles. Along the numerous harbors and coves, on its extensive shores, there is a scattered population of about 170,000. Labrador is nearly 700 miles in length, and has a population of about 2500.

The Rev. Moses Harvey, Secretary of the Newfoundland Bible Society, says in one of the Reports of that Society —

"The report of the colporteur showed how needful were his visits to these localities, many families being found entirely destitute of any portion of the Scriptures, and many more but scantily supplied. His report discloses an appalling state of spiritual destitution and ignorance among the people of these scattered settlements. In many places he found two-thirds of the people unable to read, and the young entirely destitute of the means of education and growing up in utter mental and spiritual darkness. So widely separated are the little groups sprinkled along the shores that the few ministers stationed among them can only visit each hurriedly twice a year. The colporteur found some families who had been seven and some nine years without a Bible, and the eager delight and gratitude with which they received copies were truly touching. One man he described as having 'laid hold of a Bible as a hungry man would bread, saying, I will have this for myself; then he gave one to each of his four children.'

In a later Report Mr. Harvey well says, "Have we done what we could in helping to send light to those in heathen darkness? Have we been faithful in endeavouring to enlighten the land in which we live, and to place God's word in its widely scattered homesteads? Or has selfishness or indifference rendered us cold and careless of the spiritual needs of others?"

The above remarks apply with equal appropriateness to the work in which our Society is engaged.

Mr. H. J. F., Newfoundland, writes:—"I left St. John's for my field of labor the 29th of April; on the following day, while steaming along close by the shore in Bonavista Bay, we overtook a small fishing punt containing five men; they came on board, the captain taking their boat in tow.

I got into conversation with one of their number who told me that he belonged to Timber Cove in Bloody Bay, he and his companions were bound to Greenspond, about thirty miles from where he lived:

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