

the Report of Mr. Jameson, the Superintendent, I find that the total number of scholars on the roll is 48, of whom 33 are girls, and only 15 boys. Mr. J.'s Report is interesting. Being Superintendent, he should know more about the school than I.

Lastly, I may mention that I held a Prayer-meeting for three week-nights while there, and that it was very largely attended by young and old. I was delighted to find that all took such an interest in it, and that about 100 people could be got together in a country place on a week night for prayer and praise.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the congregation might be in a worse condition far. I must in truth say that it is not what it should be; but then that is no reason why *we* or *they* should despond. There is plenty scope for improvement and enlargement; and indeed I hope to see the day when, under the blessing of God, there will not be one weak and struggling congregation merely, but two or more large and self-sustaining ones, connected with our Church, in Musquodoboit. Let us, therefore, work while it is called "to-day."

With regard to the future prospects of the congregation, the first *apparently* discouraging thing I must mention, is, that they are very likely to lose the support of the Upper Settlement. Owing to the death and removal of the most active members there, it is feared that those who remain cannot raise the sum formerly paid, and that, therefore, the service formerly given must be discontinued. Now, considering the distance of the Upper Settlement from the Church, I must say that they *ought* to be separated, for it is by no means easy or pleasant for a minister to travel 30 miles in cold winter weather, meet with very few people after he has arrived, and perhaps be unable to make his way home through banks of snow in time to prepare his discourses for the following Sabbath. Here, I may humbly remark, may be seen the inestimable value of a Divinity Hall, were there one in this Province in connection with the Church of Scotland. A Catechist, who could be easily remunerated, or a Divinity Student, might be placed here, and he could not only build up this weak and struggling station, but manage to extend his influence and usefulness further into the country around. As it is, where is the licensed preacher to be found who is willing to go into the Upper Settlement alone, and there build up a congregation for himself? If, therefore, this station, containing at present from 15 to 18 families, must be struck off from the congregation of Musquodoboit, and allowed to merge into other denominations, will it not be owing to the fact that the minister of Musquodoboit, whoever he may be, cannot have a Catechist, or some one who will be easily remunerated, to help him? There are hundreds of places like this throughout the Province, and if the prayer, "God speed the

project of a Divinity Hall," arises on high from our destitute people in these places, should we not all do what in us lies to further that project?

Even if the Upper Settlement were to fall off, however,—and we fondly hope it may not,—that fact should not discourage the congregation in the least, for they could then have service every Sabbath for themselves, and the minister could then exert his influence and spread his usefulness more among them. Exclusive of the Upper Settlement, there are 104 paying members, and surely *they* of themselves could support a minister, if they had the will. Let every one of the 104 give the small sum of 12½ cents, every Sabbath, and at the end of the year they will give their minister \$676.

Again, another thing that may seem to dim the prospects of the congregation, is, that there is a debt of about £80 on the Church. Now, I must say that that debt should have been scored off long ere this, and why it has not seems very strange. Some of the ladies, however, talk of making a Bazaar for that purpose ere long; and I am confident they require very little pressing to begin.

As before mentioned, I preached once in Meager's Grant, and had a very large congregation. What to make of that place, however, I do not exactly know, as most of the people themselves cannot tell to what denomination they belong. All denominations supply them with preaching, but very little, I believe, is paid to any. Were they to join in with us,—which would be natural, but which is not probable,—they might form an excellent branch in time, and prove a great support to the Church.

And now, to sum up all in a few general remarks. The present condition of the Church of Scotland in Musquodoboit, is just middling. It should be very much better; it might be very much worse. Its future prospects, however, are good, and very encouraging. The people are able enough, but, in many cases, hitherto they wanted the will. Under a faithful and energetic pastor, however, they could soon be made willing. Then, too, the debt on the Church could be easily scored off, and it would no longer act as a bug-bear to keep others from joining. The danger at present existing from the outside—i. e., from the intrusion of other denominations—would then be averted, and a Church could then be easily built in New Antrim,—the only step necessary to a complete possession of that place. In short, with a suitable pastor, and by the blessing of heaven, the congregation in Musquodoboit may hope soon to be self-supporting, large, and prosperous. May God make it a "city set on a hill," and "a light shining in a dark place"! May God lengthen the cords and strengthen the stakes of our beloved Zion! May God speed the mission of the Cross! JOHN McMILLAN.

28th October, 1865.