

Another discouragement is the falling off of attendance on religious ordinances. Much has been written of late on this subject in magazines and religious newspapers. Some Presbyteries speak encouragingly of the attendance at the house of God. The Presbytery of St. Johns reports no falling off in attendance upon religious ordinances, but rather an increase. The Presbytery of Pictou reports a congregation of 250 families in which one family is not unrepresented in the Lord's house on the Sabbath. Several of our pastors, however, are much cast down and discouraged at this growing evil, the tendency to neglect the means of grace. Have not the demands of business and social life in our day something to do with this growing tendency? There is such a strain upon men's nerves and powers that on the Sabbath there is a reaction, and weariness is pleaded as sufficient excuse for remaining at home. And then not a few have false views of worship. They look upon their appearance at the sanctuary in the way of personal profit rather than something we owe to and offer God. A trivial excuse will often be pleaded as justifying them for absenting themselves from the house of God. If greater emphasis were given to the elements of worship would it not have a good effect. Special services are now being held in the winter season in many of our congregations, attended with good results. Sermons are also preached to the young and much Scripture knowledge is being imparted at the home, the Sabbath-school and Bible-class. But coupled with all this should not greater pains be taken to make our people feel when coming to the sanctuary that they are drawing near to God, coming into His presence for His worship. And instead of special sermons to children might there not be at each diet of worship the children's portion. In this way all would be interested and profited by the Sabbath services.

Then there are the usual hindrances retarding the progress of Christ's kingdom, which always prove discouraging. Everywhere worldliness abounds. Intemperance still prevails. Many mourn over Sabbath desecration. Indifference and carelessness are still witnessed on the part of a great many. Several sessions report that religion has seriously suffered in consequence of election strifes. Means are employed to counteract the different

hindrances that are continually retarding the progress of the Redeemer's kingdom. Reliance is placed mainly, however, on the faithful proclamation of the glorious truths of the gospel.

In taking then a view of all the encouragements and discouragements of the past year have we not much cause for thankfulness, and should we not with increased energy and zeal use the weapon placed in our hands, the sword of the Spirit. And in using this weapon may we not, without at all detracting from its virtue and power, use it with skill, adapting our preaching to the age in which we live. The present is a practical age, and religion must be set forth as something real and practical. Something that will lay hold of every day life. The weapon is in our hands to do warfare. The enemy is powerful but our Great Captain will enable us to wield it so that mighty conquests will be achieved. He hath been mindful of us in the past, let us trust Him for the future, and if faithful unto death we will obtain the crown of life.

LETTER FROM LABRADOR.

For the Maritime Presbyterian.

GRADY, SANDWICH BAY,
August 10th, 1837.

MR. EDITOR:—

According to promise I write, giving you an idea of my work during the two months I have been upon this coast, travelling as a colporteur for the British American Book and Tract Society. Owing to the poverty along the coast, the people are unable to buy many books they would buy gladly if they could.

I first visited the Western coast of Labrador where I found the people without any spiritual teaching. Ignorance of every kind prevailed here to a very large extent.

At one place, Herrington, where I went on shore and visited the people, I found them thirsting for the Living water. Their language was: "Sir, we would see Jesus." I announced service to be held in the evening at six o'clock. The house was thronged with anxious enquirers. I never saw people hungering so much for the bread of life. And I could thank God that it was to be had without money and without price. Old and young wept like little children. Some of them said they had not heard a service for nearly a year before. One old woman, with tears streaming down her cheeks, said to me: It is so good to hear the Word preached again! Oh, how I love it. Why don't some one send us a minister to point us to the