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ward, we have had to content ourselves largely with holding the old positions, exercising the strictest economy in all expenditures of funds entrusted to us. And now at the close of another Convention year, with hearts full of anxieties and with hands overlaid we present a brief summary of the Home Mission work for the past twelve months.

NEWCASTLE, NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY.

Rev. E. C. Baker has had charge of the group of churches in this part, supplying the stations regularly until July of the present year. He reports six baptisms and a fair state of progress on the whole field. For a long time Baptist growth here has been slow, and the conditions and prospects seem little better than in previous years.

HARCOURT.

For a part of the present Convention year Bro. I. N. Thorne has supplied the stations of this field. One great difficulty in the way of successful prosecution of the work has been the fact that the missionary lived too great a distance away, and could only make occasional visits, coming by rail each time. What seems greatly needed is to have a resident laborer, who could give undivided attention to the various communities in this vicinity. There is an opportunity for our people to do good service in many of these localities, but much careful and painstaking labor will have to be performed.

BUCTOUCHE.

This field was occupied during a part of the year by Bro. Smith, who was aided by the Board. The stations are some distance apart, and the drives, especially in winter, necessitate much exposure. Bro. Smith afterwards accepted the pastorate at Port Elgin, and for a time these interests were left uncared for. They are at present supplied by Bro. G. H. Beaman.

SERDIAC.

Rev. E. C. Corey continues to supply here, giving one-fourth of his time. The resident membership is small, not exceeding twenty, but they are a faithful band, and give liberally to the Lord's work. We could not find it in our hearts to desert them, and the small grant has been continued. As intimated in previous reports, there is at this point a grand centre for combined French and English mission work, but this has been an ideal to which our Board has not yet attained. May we not hope that in the near future much more may be done for the Acadians of Westmorland than has hitherto been even attempted.

PORT ELGIN AND CAPE TORMENTINE.

For a part of the year this field was cared for by Bro. Gardner. At present Rev. R. Barry Smith is stationed in charge, occupying nearly all the points from Port Elgin eastward to the Cape. The attendance at all the stations has been good, and the prospects for successful work seem more promising. The tax upon the labors of one man to supply the whole field is indeed excessive, but it seems almost impossible to get any better arrangement. The demand for Baptist work is imperative, and the Board will doubtless have to continue aid for some time yet.

MIDGIC.

There are three churches in this pastorate, supplied of late by Rev. J. W. Gardner. The support, however, is quite insufficient, and unless the amount can be increased the field must soon become vacant. One important drawback that much hinders the present prosecution of successful work is the want of unanimity among the members of one of the sections. Even when all united the churches are weak enough, and only the hearty and united support of the entire membership can secure pastoral labor, with the small assistance now rendered by the Board. We commend this course to the serious attention of all the sections.

GERMANTOWN.

Rev. T. Bishop, pastor of the First Harvey church, has supplied this mission up to May 1 of the present year. The interest during his pastorate was well sustained, and the congregations continued good. Since his resignation the Board has not granted further assistance.

FAIRFIED, ST. JOHN COUNTY.

This church, known as Second St. Martins, has, in connection with Hilldale, enjoyed the watch care of Bro. Bynon, who has, with his usual vigor and earnestness, attended to our denominational interests hereabout. A wholesome spiritual activity has been manifested, especially in the Sabbath School and B. V. P. U. meetings. Several have professed their faith in Christ and united with the church by baptism. Our affairs here have not enjoyed so much prosperity and blessing for many years as under the present pastorate, and we trust the field is destined ere long to become self-sustaining.

LAKEVIEW, ST. JOHN COUNTY.

Rev. J. D. Wetmore supplied this point in connection with the Hampton Station field. Owing to the heavy pressure upon his time and strength, our brother felt unable to continue the pastorate, and in November last removed to Rockland, Carleton County. While he preached here the congregations were large, the spiritual life of the people was greatly quickened, and general progress was manifest in all the work.

TABERNACLE, ST. JOHN.

The Board is pleased to be able to report the most successful year, so far as increase of membership is concerned, yet known in the history of the Tabernacle church. Nor do we think progress in all respects has ever been better than during the twelve months now closing. Bro. Stackhouse has the undivided support of his people, who are in addition most hearty in his praise. Finding themselves somewhat straitened for want of proper church accommodation, the members have decided on the erection of a more suitable and convenient church edifice, which under all the circumstances would seem most desirable.

MUSQUASH.

Our interests in this part of the province have enjoyed much prosperity since Bro. Field's pastorate began. There have been some additions by baptism, and all the work is in a healthy and progressive condition. Bro. Field gives promise of much usefulness in the Master's service, and we trust he may long be spared to repeat the record already made. Just as this report goes to press we have to record the loss of Bro. C. F. Clinch,

long identified with our cause in this place. May worthy successors be raised up to fill his place.

BRAVER HARBOR.

Elder Munro has proved the right man among this people, and harmony prevails throughout the field. A new station has been added, and an interesting congregation gathered in. The field now asserts itself as self-sustaining, and Pastor Munro declares his intention of keeping it up to this mark if possible.

ST. ANDREWS.

Perhaps no field falling under the care of the Board has given greater ground for encouragement than the churches of this group. For many years our missionary efforts here have been exceedingly trying, and at the same time productive of but small results. Early in the present season Evangelist Young, then a general missionary of the Board, came this way, and after making some enquiries and looking over the interests, began special meetings. It was a trying and perilous venture to gather the scattered fragments together, requiring no small amount of tact and grace, with much forbearance, lest the enemy should utterly extinguish the last vestige of Baptist influence in these parts. Satan seemed strongly entrenched hard by the temple of God. Most of those hitherto known as Baptists had gone off into other societies, and for some time it seemed difficult to regain their sympathy and support. The sins and failures of others also stood in the way, while a general apathy on the part of the few remaining baptized believers made the recovery doubly difficult. As the meetings continued, however, the power of God became more and more manifest, and soon rich blessings followed. All the resident brethren gradually fell in with the efforts of God's servant, while quite a number of others were led by the spirit of God to give themselves to the service of the Master and cast in their lot with us. The church has again resumed its functions, and Bro. Young was persuaded to tarry with it for some months, until the settlement of a regular pastor could be effected. In all this success the Board has greatly rejoiced, and the changed condition of our mission at St. Andrews has been in itself a sufficient reward for all the anxieties of the year.

BAILLIE.

Bro. Steeves has occupied the stations on this field, and has had a fairly prosperous year. The attendance at preaching services has been good, and several have united with the church by baptism. There seems to be at the present an encouraging prospect for the numerous districts embraced in this pastorate, and we are looking for greater things in the future.

NEW MARVLAND AND CARDIGAN.

For some time these little churches have been left to suffer, owing chiefly to the fact that hitherto no successful plan of grouping them seemed to present itself. This year, however, matters began to look more hopeful, and an arrangement was at length made by which Bro. Seelye could supply both places. A good degree of interest has been displayed, and our denominational position is evidently much better than for several years.

DOAKTOWN.

An interesting band of churches and mission stations is to be found on the Upper Miramichi. They are at present under the pastoral care of Bro. King, and during the last four years have made rapid strides in growth and spiritual development. These settlements are somewhat thinly drawn out in a continuous line along the valley of the river, and from their position necessitate a long drive from the western to the eastern parts of the field. Bro. King has greatly enjoyed his labors in these parts, although taxing his strength to the utmost. At the recent associational gathering at Doaktown, the brethren here gave a warm welcome to those from the sections along the St. John, and showed that, despite their remoteness from the great body of their brethren, they have true denominational fellowship with us in every good work. We are exceedingly hopeful of this mission.

KESWICK.

Two small churches, bearing this name, are here grouped with the Macnaquack church, and at present receive the care of Bro. Howard. The congregations, though somewhat mixed, are yet large and attentive, and good opportunities are presented for Baptists. Bro. Howard stands high in the esteem of his people, and it is doubtful if his place could be better filled by any brother in our ministry. Under the blessing of God we look for growth and additions ere long.

TEMPERANCE VALE.

This field, in connection with Upper Queensbury and Springfield, was at first supplied by Bro. Rutledge, who retired in December last. During the present summer Rev. C. W. Sabies has had charge of it, and the work is progressing favorably. A new parsonage has been erected at Temperance Vale, thus greatly strengthening our position for the future. Several important outstations stretch out on every side, and give an earnest laborer his full quota of opportunities to serve the cause of the Master. Bro. Sabies has proved himself the right man for this part of our denominational heritage, and we look for blessings on the work.

ABERDEEN.

Bro. Calder was stationed here in the beginning of the present Convention year, but soon after accepted the pastorate of Centerville church. During the summer a student has supplied several of the stations, but a regular pastor is needed throughout the year.

ANDOVER.

A large and important group of stations centres around this point, and these are at present cared for by Bro. Demmings. The interest in the preaching services is good, and the attendance on the increase. With the Divine favor good results will follow, and the churches be greatly strengthened.

TOBIQUE VALLEY.

The points on this river have been supplied by Bros. Millin and Stirling, the latter now having oversight of the field. Owing to the mixed nature of the communities, and also on account of the fact that these communities are commonly small, our progress has been slow. We are encouraged, however, to continue our efforts and do our part towards the evangelization of the many promising settlements now opening up in these sections.

ST. FRANCIS.

Rev. C. Henderson, our veteran home missionary, is doing effective service here, extending his labors far up the river and along the branches into the State of Maine. A considerable part of this mission lies naturally in that State, and should, we think, receive assistance from the H. M. Board of Maine. The field is large, the stations widely separated, and the drives most trying. Many camps of lumbermen at work here in the winter season are visited by our missionary, who gives to many of them the only gospel service they are permitted to enjoy during their isolation from the older communities down the river. Among the crews of these camps are many French Catholics, who, perhaps, here receive what is denied them at home, and are thereby at least brought under the influence of the gospel for a portion of each year. May the seed thus sown be quickened to the salvation of many precious souls.

GENERAL MISSIONARY WORK.

For some time in the early part of the year Rev. E. W. Patterson acted as our general missionary, doing good service at Hopewell and several other points. He afterwards accepted an engagement in connection with the Sackville church, and a little later removed to the Northwest.

Bro. Young was also employed in the same service for a part of the year, laboring in various parts of the province until May last, when, in consequence of the success attending his efforts at St. Andrews, it seemed most reasonable and necessary that he should comply with the request of that church to remain with them, as stated, supply for six months.

Rev. J. H. Hughes has also been employed by the Board as Field Secretary, and as supply for pastorless churches. In the course of his visits Bro. Hughes has striven to encourage vacant interests to secure pastoral care, and in many instances we have reason to believe that his visits in this respect have resulted in much good.

Modern Decadence.

We are in no respect inclined to take a pessimistic view of things. On the contrary, we feel that there is an upward trend to them, and that the world as a whole is beneath the rays of a rising sun. At the same time we cannot be blind to certain tendencies that seem to obtain among us leading in the opposite direction. It would seem as though there has been a decadence to some extent in the general tone and trend of things. In literature, for example, books have been published during the past decade in regard to which one's commendation has to be very carefully guarded. There are many of them morbid in tone, and at points so suggestive as to social problems that one can scarcely place them on the family reading table. One cannot help contrasting them with the works of the past generation—works of Thackeray, of Dickens, of Eliot and of Bulwer. The tone of them one feels is not on the whole uplifting, and that they have not in them that quality of life and strength which will give or ought to give them a permanent position in literature. The same seems to be true and possibly to almost the same extent in the domain of art. Art has become realistic instead of idealistic, and the pictures that have been presented are many of them the reverse of elevating in tone. This has been noted as peculiarly true of the French department of art in the World's Exposition now holding at Paris. The composition of the representative pictures is spoken of as grotesque, and to some extent vulgar and deflowering to the utmost degree. The lofty ideals of earlier painters seem, to a certain extent, to have been lost sight of, and art has too much come down to the plane and dust and grime of a life least to be commended.

When we come to manners and customs, somehow we are not very much pleased as we look in certain directions. It is most assuredly not an encouraging sign that so large a space in our daily press is taken up with descriptions of prize fights and amusements of this character. One wonders that men can indulge in such brutal encounters, and he wonders more that thousands, numbering among them many citizens deemed reputable, can be found who will patronize such an exhibition. One wonders, if possible still more, that our reputable press should find it sufficiently profitable to give so large a space to the description of these brutal encounters. Paragraphs too that find their way now and then into the papers from our seaside resorts, and the manners of those who wear them, are not pleasant reading. Recent accusations have been made in public likewise in regard to the drink habit among ladies of our so-called upper class; while the character of some public entertainments seems to suggest anything but that of an upward and inspiring trend. In fact this has been, to quite a large extent characteristic of the current drama for the last year or more. There seems, as we have suggested, a letting down of things, as though there had come too emphatic a protest in so-called puritanism of a generation past. The survey is one not perhaps to make the observer despondent, but is calculated to make him thoughtful.

The cause or cure of that which we have so imperfectly indicated, does not lie close at hand. Perhaps the fault to some extent is to be found in the greater possibility of wealth among us, and so in the greater possibility of extravagance. Possibly, too, it may be traced somewhat to the increased freedom enjoyed by the feminine portion of the community. Perhaps the latitude of the bicycle has led to the license of the bathing suit. Undoubtedly the larger liberty given to woman in many respects is an advantage. She should have as she is having a larger scope in the choice and following of an occupation; in the securing of educational advantages; and in general in the pursuit of her individual choice; but that all these things have introduced a new and puzzling element into the social structure, none who observes closely will be inclined to question. The cure will come undoubtedly in due time. The eddy is not the current of the stream. It simply indicates some local disturbance. These things that we have spoken of as eddies in the social stream that we believe is leading onward to broader freedom, to more exalted character, and to a more perfect representation of Christian civilization. There is no real cause for discouragement to anyone, but there is reason for thoughtful consideration on the part of all.—The Commonwealth.