

HOME MISSION LABOUR IN PRESBYTERY OF GUELPH.

I entered upon my duties as a missionary of the Guelph Presbytery on Sabbath the 17th of April, and continued to labour within its bounds until Sabbath the 9th of September, during which time I supplied Arthur and Kenilworth six Sabbaths, Rothsay and Minto four Sabbaths, and Winterbourne eleven Sabbaths. Having been sent for six weeks to Arthur and the adjoining stations, immediately after the close of College, and again for four Sabbaths, after an absence of nearly three months in Winterbourne, I had a good opportunity of ascertaining what progress these stations made during the summer, and am glad to be able to report that, in the case of Arthur Village and Rothsay, there was an increase in the average attendance. The attendance in Arthur was rather irregular, being seldom below seventy and occasionally nearly double that number; but comparing the average in August with that of April there was a considerable increase. The attendance at Kenilworth was about sixty, and was much the same in August as in April. It is to be regretted that there is neither Sabbath School nor prayer meeting in connection with these stations, and owing to the small number of families there in connection with our Church, and the large area of country over which they are scattered, it is extremely difficult to get any considerable number of either old or young together, except to attend the public exercises of the sanctuary.

The attendance at Rothsay was about two hundred in April, and appeared to have increased considerably during the summer. A Sabbath School was established in the beginning of May last, on the union principle, which has succeeded in a very encouraging manner. The average attendance in August was about seventy, and was constantly increasing. A Sabbath School library is very much needed, and I am glad to be able to report that the teachers are taking the necessary steps to supply this deficiency as soon as possible.

The meetings in the Wallace and Minto Church were, I regret to say considerably smaller in August than in the spring. When sent there by the Presbytery in April I found the Church respectably filled, notwithstanding the almost impassable state of the roads, but on returning in August the attendance was very considerably diminished. I was also informed that the Sabbath School which had been in successful operation during a part of the summer was almost defunct. Various reasons were assigned for the decrease in attendance; but judging from the feelings of the parties with whom I conversed, I had little difficulty in coming to the conclusion that a recent disappointment in the settlement of a pastor had much to do with the unfortunate state of things there existing. My stay at these stations being very brief on both occasions, it was impossible to do anything in the way of visiting, and consequently my report must be blank.

I commenced supplying the Goderich congregation on Sabbath the 30th May and remained there until the second Sabbath of August. The average attendance during this time was about two hundred. Our people here attend public worship with a regularity which is rarely seen in congregations not enjoying the stated services of a pastor, and manifest much earnestness and devotedness in endeavouring to further the interests of the congregation. As often as circumstances permitted, I held prayer-meetings in different parts of the congregation, which were well attended and I always found those present both able and willing to take part in these exercises. There are two Sabbath schools in the neighbourhood, one immediately connected with our congregation, and another very efficiently conducted on the union principle by members of our Church and that of the Established Church, of Scotland I repeatedly taught in the Sabbath school of our own Church and frequently visited the Union school, and am glad to be able to report favourably of both.

In concluding this report I may state, that nothing could exceed the kindness and Christian courtesy which your missionary met with at the hands of the members and adherents of the Woolwich congregation. The most favourable arrangements were made for his domestic comfort and every means used to aid and encourage him in his labours. I understand this congregation has been in existence since the year 1844 and has only enjoyed the regular services of a minister about one-third of that time. The energy and devotedness which have kept it together during such a long period, certainly deserve the favourable consideration of the Guelph Presbytery.

R. M. GRANT.