

## Home Missions.

LETTER FROM THE REV. MR. WADDELL.

*Continued.*

Leaving Mabou and coming overland 40 miles, I spent my last Sabbath on the Island at the strait of Canso, preaching in the morning at Plaster Cove and at Ship Harbor in the afternoon. The audiences here were small. Most of the people near Plaster Cove prefer the Gaelic language, and, by some mistake or mismanagement, proper intimation of sermon at Ship Harbor had not been given.

Religious society in these places does not appear to be well organised. Several families were originally connected with our Church and are warmly attached to us still, but they usually harmonize with their Free Church neighbors and avail themselves of every opportunity to enjoy the ordinances of religion. \* \* \*

\* \* \* My intercourse with the people here was limited, but not uninteresting. The few individuals and families with whom I had opportunities to correspond, while watching for a passage to Pictou by water, received me kindly and seemed desirous of obtaining a larger share of religious ordinances than they at present possess, or have the prospect of soon enjoying. From James G. McKeen Esq. of Plaster Cove, I received much kind attention, and a contribution towards the expenses of my mission. He is the Gaius of these regions, as is Mr. Murray of Mabou, and Mr. Blanchard of Port Hood.

During my mission, efforts were made in several quarters to stimulate the intellectual and moral as well as religious improvement of these places. I attended and addressed a special meeting of the Mabou Total Abstinence Society.

Several conferences on the subject of education were held, resulting in the projection of two Grammar Schools, with good prospects of their being carried into immediate operation; and, with the assistance of a donation from Hon. William Young, funds were raised and placed in my hands to procure three Sabbath School Libraries, of the invaluable publications

of the London Religious Tract Society. These I have the prospect of being able soon to supply on the most liberal terms. The Sabbath School at Mabou is in efficient operation. At Port Hood it has been for some time discontinued, but will likely be revived on the opening of their new Library.

The efforts which our people in these places are at present making for the maintenance of religious ordinances among themselves, and in support of the schemes of the Church, as well as their isolated and hampered situation, entitle them to the most favorable consideration of the Church. The congregation at Mabou is a part of our own communion. They are of us and strongly attached to us, and because their numbers are small and they are unfavorably situated, should they suffer the privation of any of the privileges which older and more extensive communities possess? Is it not high time that our Church should feel the body is one and that the interests of its members are common interests?—We recognise the authority which says, "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ," do we comply with this injunction when, for one or two pounds a year we possess all the privileges of organised christian society and the regular and constant dispensation of divine ordinances, while others contribute in a two or three-fold proportion for occasional services of ministers who are but comparative strangers, and can ill adapt their ministrations to the peculiar circumstances of those with whom they correspond.

We recognise the standard of Christian effort to be, "as God hath prospered,"—and do we act upon this principle, when, because the lines have fallen to us in pleasant places, and we are associated with an extensive congregation, we do not contribute more than our proportion of the funds requisite to maintain the ordinances of religion among ourselves? Surely the fact of our being more favorably situated than others, should lead to greater efforts, and give others a strong claim to our fraternal co-operation. It is a hopeful sign of our Church that there are not a few among us who have begun to act upon these principles; and the more generally they are adopted into our plans for upholding and extending the kingdom of Christ, the more may we expect to enjoy the appro-