

which I solemnized. Suffice it to say that during my eight weeks residence in the place, my time was fully taken up in attending to the general interests of the congregation. Never, during the same length of time, did I find fewer hours to devote to my own favourite studies; and never—I may add—have I had more true satisfaction and enjoyment in the performance of the public and private duties of the gospel ministry. Every sermon which I preached, every act which I performed, has been estimated, I believe, at its very highest value, by the people whom I was endeavouring, by the divine blessing, to benefit.

TREATMENT.

As an evidence of the truth of my conviction, I would state that each individual seemed to vie with the other in town and country, in showing me every possible token of respect and kindness, and in endeavouring to make the most of my humble services. From all parts of the congregation I have carried away with me pleasing reminiscences of kind words and kind deeds, which will remain indelibly engraven on the tablets of my memory while life lasts. Not to mention any other, the closing scene deserves special notice. On the evening previous to my departure, Messrs. Hogg and Shephard called on me, bringing with them what some one has called "the essential element," and after liquidating my board-bill and travelling expenses, paid me—largely overpaid me—for all my services. You will readily believe me when I say that it cost me an effort—a greater effort than I am willing to acknowledge—to disentangle my affections from such a people, and bid good bye to them.

PROSPECTS.

In regard to the future prosperity of our cause in that portion of the Master's Vineyard, I feel disposed to speak hopefully. After all the vicissitudes through which the congregation has passed, there are considerably over one hundred families conscientiously and devotedly attached to it; and there are in the eldership five men as tried and true as any you can find in the old Presbyterian congregations of Pictou and Colchester. A glebe delightfully situated in the rear of the town—has recently been purchased; and on it a neat well-proportioned Manse—for which Mr. Archibald is entitled to much credit. The ladies have organized a sowing-circle, and are now vigorously at work in making preparations for a Bazaar, to aid in completing this house of their future minister. Do not those evidences of strength and vitality warrant me in speaking hopefully of the future prospects of the congregation? The great desideratum just now—next to a more

copious effusion of the Holy Spirit—is a suitable pastor. The field is very extensive, and the labour must necessarily be arduous. We have few men who have the requisite qualifications of muscle and mind, and nerve for the situation. If I had control—like an Anglican bishop—over my fellow-labourers in the ministry, I would select one of the hardest and holiest of our popular preachers, and give him charge of the congregation immediately. The people, I know, would receive him cordially and sustain him generously; and in the course of a few years, by the blessing of God upon his labours, I believe, we would have in that wide field, two congregations as flourishing and fruitful as can be found within the limits of our Synod.

Oh! for more—many more—pious and powerful preachers of the glorious Gospel, who, like Paul, shall determine not to know anything, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified! My heart almost bleeds when I think of the numerous unsupplied congregations which I have recently visited. Why is our Theological Hall so sparsely attended, when it should be crowded with candidates for the ministry? And why are so many of our ministers leaving the Provinces at the time when we have greatest need for their services? The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few! I join, brethren, in prayer with you that the Lord of the harvest would send forth more labourers into his harvest, and especially just now, that he would send an active and acceptable labourer to the Presbyterian congregation of Shelburne.

T. CUMMING.

HALIFAX, March 4th, 1873.

Our Foreign Missions.

Meeting of the Board of Foreign Missions.

The Board met at New Glasgow, on the 18th ult. Present: Rev. J. Stewart, Chairman; Rev. Dr. Bayne, Rev. Messrs. Walker, Patterson, McG. McKay, McKinnon, Thompson, Mowitt and McGregor, and J. W. Carmichael and John Miller, Esquires.

The annual Reports of Rev. Messrs. Morton and Grant, with accompanying documents, were read giving full financial and statistical statements respecting the San Fernando Church and the schools at San Fernando, Iere and other places, with full