

success in the Home field, as certainly as in the South Seas and Trinidad, requires the mighty aid of the spirit of God. Our lands have been saturated with the early rains; and the latter rains will come in due time, in answer to prayer, and will ripen the growing corn. Let prayer ascend for the better rain in copious showers, let many pleading voices and praying companies "ask of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain; so the Lord shall make bright clouds and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field." O spirit of the living God, our parched and barren land awaits thy descent! Come down in answer to our prayers, and bless the souls and the labours of all our ministers, missionaries, catechists and people, that our valleys, and mountains, and plains, no longer lying waste, may be glorious with the richest verdure, and enamelled with the fruits of righteousness to the praise of the glory of thine unsearchable grace!

REPORT OF DEPUTATION TO THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

Appointed by Synod in New Glasgow, June, 1867.

In presenting their report your Deputation would, in the first place, desire to render thanks to Almighty God for all the goodness and mercy which He vouchsafed to them from the time they left their homes and congregations till the time they returned; and, in the second place, they would acknowledge their sense of the confidence the Synod reposed in them, and the honour they conferred in committing to them so weighty and responsible a work. Nor can they refrain from giving expression to their sense of the reception which they met with alike from ministers and people in every part of the province—so that from Chatham, where they began their work, to St. John, where they closed it, a wide door, and an effectual one, was opened to them, and so far as they are aware there were no adversities. There were only one or two mistakes made in their routes of travel, which, however, resulted in their failing to visit one of the congregations in the Presbytery of York, for which failure they have already expressed, and hereby do again express their regret. All their arrangements for service on Sabbath and during the week were carried out, and in every congregation,

and indeed in every section of every congregation, with only one exception, in which they laboured, everything testified to the deep, warm, loving interest which everybody felt in their visit and the object of it. The minute of Synod, anent their appointment, bears that they "gather and impart information respecting the condition of that part of the Church." The Deputation were convinced, and they acted on the conviction that it could not be statistical information that was required either to be gathered or imparted, since this was to be found in the statistical tables of the church; and, therefore, they did not, except incidentally, gather any such information, as they were persuaded this did not fall within their commission. If, however, the Synod understood otherwise, the Deputation have only to express their regret that they have failed to carry out this department of the work with which they were entrusted.

The Deputation commenced their labours within the bounds of the Presbytery of Miramichi on their arrival in Chatham, in company with the Rev. Mr. Pitblado, who was sent there by the Presbytery of Pictou for the two-fold purpose of dispensing our Lord's supper to the congregation of Chatham, and of ascertaining whether the injunction of Synod, respecting the use of instrumental music by them in the public worship of God, had been or would be obeyed. They met with a most cordial reception—a reception, however, to which it was felt by the congregation and the session on the one hand, and by the Deputation on the other, there was a serious drawback, in the absence of the minister, the Rev. Dr. McCurdy, who since then has ceased from his labours, and, as we believe, has entered into the joy of his Lord. It surely cannot be out of place to refer to the death of Dr. McCurdy and to the lessons which this event reads alike to the church and the ministry of the church. The church in her several congregations should learn from it to know more than ever those who are over them in the Lord, and admonish them and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake; and the ministry should learn from it more than ever to commend themselves and their work to every man's conscience in the sight of God, by becoming all things to all men, if by any means they may gain some.

When the session met and was constituted by the Rev. Mr. Pitblado, your Deputation were present and took part in the deliberations of the court on the state of the congregation generally, and on the special business which Mr. Pitblado had in charge; and though it was no part of their commission to ascertain what were the views and intentions of the congregation thereanent, they are but doing what is