

MAGDALEN ISLANDS.

E. S. SUTCLIFFE writes :—

After working during the summer in Nova Scotia I was sent by the Society to the Magdalen Islands in September. I am glad to be able to report that the Lord smiled upon the undertaking, and graciously poured out His spirit in the meetings which I was privileged to hold, and helped me in every way.

The English speaking population is not very large, numbering only about 400 individuals. Amongst these I distributed by sale and gift about forty dollars worth of religious literature, and held twenty Evangelistic services, at which 50 or 60 men, women and children professed to give their hearts to God. I also visited very many at their homes and dealt with them personally about their souls' welfare. Among the French I could not do very much, though I visited a number of families.

I was received with very great kindness by the people. It was noon of the day when I arrived at the Islands, and the meeting which I then announced for that evening was filled to overflowing. I never saw any people so anxious for the Gospel as these, and it was with joy that I told them of the love of Jesus. They are hungering for the word of God to be preached to them, and on some of the Islands there is little or no preaching. Some I visited are sometimes as long as six months without hearing a sermon.

These Islands are in urgent need of more Christian work; the need being far greater than anywhere else where I have travelled for the Society. My heart felt sad as I thought of the thousands, not only in the Magdalen Islands but in many places in the Maritime Provinces, where the people are beyond the reach of the ordinary means which minister to our spiritual wants in more favored places. The Society, for want of money, cannot send as many men as they would wish to such places as the Magdalen Islands, the Coast of Labrador, &c. The people are poor and cannot buy as many books as they would like, and there are many destitute among them who have to be supplied free of charge; which makes the work more expensive in such places. A great deal of time too is consumed in going from island to island, from harbor to harbor, and from one scattered settlement to another.

I felt very much like spending the winter on the Islands. One man said he felt like crying when I left, as there would be no more preaching for six months. Another asked me if I could not stay all winter, as they would be willing to support me and do what they could to build up the cause there.

They took up a collection for the Society, amounting to \$5.96, and I came away feeling that here was a grand opening for the benevolent efforts of the Society.