

spectively. It includes the districts named, Branch on the West side of the river, and Northfield on the East. North of them on both sides of the river, are Riversdale and New Germany; while further North still is Springfield, in Annapolis County. In this district of country there are seven places in which Divine Service is held—two School Houses in Branch, a Church in Northfield, unfinished in the inside, one-third owned by the Presbyterians, a School House in Riversdale, a Hall above a school room in New Germany, and also a School House six miles further North, and a Church in Springfield, owned by the Baptists, but open to preachers of any evangelical denomination. There are about 30 families, either whole or part, Presbyterian, in this locality, the greater number being in the Southern sections. The remainder of the population is divided between the Lutherans, Methodists, Baptists and Episcopalians. The country is new, in many places very rocky, but the soil is generally good. Agriculture and lumbering are the principal occupations.

2. PLAN OF ACTION.

When I arrived at this Station, ignorant of the locality, of the wants of the people, and their peculiarities, I was at a loss to know what plan of action to adopt. But making a survey of the field at as early a day as possible, I soon learned that the great want of this place was *information*. That out of the people that had grown up before the establishment of the present school system, enjoyed very few educational advantages, in consequence of which many cannot even read. It is gratifying to know that all who were brought up Presbyterians (with one exception,) have, at least, the elements of an education. As far as I could gather from personal intercourse with the people, all were religiously inclined. Considering the influences with which they had to contend, the moral character of the people appeared good. Here there was a foundation on which to build, a moral character and a willing mind. With these before me, my duty was plain. If permanent work was to be done, it must be by imparting wholesome instruction. This I attempted to do. (1.) By preaching the Gospel. Two services were held on each Sabbath regularly, and a third occasionally. These were well attended by all denominations. (2.) By teaching the Scriptures. Free Bible Classes were organized in Riversdale, Branch, and Northfield, which met on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings of each week, except at times in haying. The average attendance at these classes was about 70. At all these meetings my aim was to *instruct*, until I know we cannot practise, and God's

Word faithfully proclaimed must bear fruit ultimately. As I was alone I chose to teach Bible Classes, rather than hold prayer meetings, for though the number thus reached was smaller, yet their greatest wants could thus be best supplied.

In addition to this regular work I attended a female prayer meeting on Thursdays generally, at which I always expounded some portion of Scripture. These women deserve special mention, for many here are prejudiced against prayer meetings. But they have persevered, and are determined to persevere still, in spite of opposition and discouragements. I also organized a Sabbath School at Riversdale, and supplied it with books and papers. It succeeded well under the circumstances. Sabbath Schools were already organized in most of the other Sections, some of which I visited, and encouraged in their work.

3. REQUIREMENTS.

The people are mostly of German descent, and those only who are acquainted with their characteristics, and the advantages which they have enjoyed, can know their real wants. They are generous and confiding, and not having had the educational advantages of many more favoured localities, they are thus liable to be imposed on. Nearly all are Church-going, attending on all the ordinances of religion; but in too many cases has Christianity been supposed to consist mere in ordinances. Such notions, however, have been completely eradicated from the minds of the majority, and many are prepared to receive the truth in its simplicity and power. In the upper section of New Germany quite a change has been wrought within the last year. They were wholly cut off from Divine Service, and as many told me themselves were "living like heathens." I found more than a dozen persons in as many families, who could not read. During the last year a regular monthly service was conducted there by the Catechists of our Church, and all are anxious to have this service continued. The effect of a preached Gospel is apparent.

There are some outlying sections in this neighbourhood however, of which the above is not true. One settlement of six families visited during the Summer is indescribable. No ordained minister ever visited them. All are very poor, and only one individual (except a few young folks,) is able to read. They seldom or never attend any place of Worship. Wrapped up in their armour of ignorance, their hearts have become as hard as the rocks among which they dwell. "The ministers never put anything into our pockets." It don't appear like it at least, or into their hearts either. I was informed of adjacent settlements not much better. I may ask a question, How are