

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed here for the first time on the first Sabbath in May. Twenty-seven members were entered on the roll and received tokens, but owing to illness two of them were unable to be present. Of these, four joined the Church then for the first time on profession of faith, and five came from the Evangelical Protestant Church of Germany, (it was two of these who were unable to be present,) one from the Congregational Church, and one from the Methodist Church. The rest were members of the Presbyterian Church before coming to this place. In the Session there are two elders and myself, one of these, Mr. Benjamin Sinclair, had been an elder at Mount Albert, and was re-elected by the people here; the other, Mr. Robert Maitland, was elected for the first time here and ordained.

Since the New Year I preach three times each Sabbath, viz., at Prince Arthur's at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m., and at Fort William at 8 p. m. The Sabbath School is at 2.30 p. m., but owing to my having to preach at Fort William at 8 I am unable to be present.

The weekly lecture and prayer meeting is on Friday evening, when I usually take up the Sabbath School lesson for the following Sabbath, for the sake of the teachers.

Since the opening of navigation our attendance has been larger than during the winter, and the same is true also of the station at Fort William, though I may say of most of the new accessions, they are only transient. The railway men, with few exceptions, are some distance from us now, and very seldom here on Sabbath.

Here, like all new places that spring up either through a mining or railway excitement, the population is, and will be for some time, very fluctuating, and many of them of the very roughest class. Often they are here but for a very short time, so that we scarcely become acquainted with them when they leave us again. The men working on the railway are now so far away from here, that we cannot expect them to attend either at Prince Arthur's or at Fort William. I have distributed a number of tracts among them, which were well received, but circumstances prevented my having any special preaching services for their benefit. Were I relieved from my duties here for two weeks or so, I could visit them, and preach to them where they are working.

The scarcity of work during the winter, and, consequently, the scarcity of money, has made the contributions towards my salary smaller than they would otherwise have been, also the building of the lecture room should be taken into account. The lecture room will be large enough for the accommodation of the congregation at least for another year, and in the meantime I am urging them to build a manse, for I find that I cannot afford to live in a rented house on my present salary. With a free house it might do; and having a manse, even though my successor should not require it, it would be a source of revenue to the congregation.

On the whole we have reason for encouragement, or, at least, no cause for despondency. Though the reaping may not be as abundant as we would desire, we have reason for gratitude for what there is. Many influences combine to retard the progress of the gospel in this place, but he that is for us is greater than all they that can be against us. He will give the increase in his own time and way.

Yours sincerely,

D. McKERACHER.