

moment's thought on the part of all, and especially on the part of the Board.

For what in a word is the state of the Province; and on this occasion we mean to confine ourselves to that part of it west of the St. John River, and we do this for a very good reason. It is because we know that portion of the field better than other places, both from personal inspection and from some inquiries that we have made. This includes the greater part of the territory occupied by the St. Stephen and York Presbyteries. It is a pretty wide district that extends from the Point of Lepreaux to Grand Falls in one direction, and from the St. John to the St. Croix on the other. Within this territory there are three vacancies that we may presume will soon be filled up, viz., Nerepis and Jerusalem, Fredericton and Prince William; at least there is no good reason why they should not if the people are in earnest, for in each of these there is a comfortable living for a pastor attainable. Leaving these out let us see what remains. Beginning with the extreme south there are Lepreaux and Musquash that were formerly preaching stations in connection with the Presbytery of St. John. It is to be supposed that the Presbyterian population of these places is not what it once was, but there are still some respectable families remaining. Then there is Baillie and the associated stations where a pastor was formerly settled, and where a catechist was located all last summer.—Following the St. Andrews and Woodstock Railway we come to Canterbury where there are a number of families, and where Messrs. Glass and Home used to hold occasional services. Then there are Woodstock and Richmond that once enjoyed the blessing of a settled pastor, but have been vacant for some years. Passing beyond Florenceville where Rev. D. Bernard lives and labours we come to Grand Falls where a flourishing station might be opened. An occasional service is held here at long intervals, but the people are most anxious for ordinances and are willing to pay for them. These are the prominent points of the district. We have no doubt that scattered all over the region groups of Presbyterian families may be found, and wherever there are such, we are responsible for their oversight. We have not done our entire duty until we have reached every family with ordinances that claim connexion with us. Has the Church been conscious of the grave responsibilities that rest on her in connexion with these scattered families? There are few, we think, that will answer in the affirmative.

The question then is, how is the want to be met? With our present resources of men and means, how can we best overtake the work that lies before us, not only with re-

gard to vacant charges and stations, but also the outlying field? We have sometimes thought that if a few Scripture readers, or colporteurs, or lay agents of the right stamp were available and planted in various localities, a great deal of useful pioneer work might be done. Men of undoubted piety, of more than average intelligence and strong common sense, and endowed with organizing faculties, would be the men for such work. The chief difficulty perhaps is this, that men so qualified would be able to make twice as much in some other employment as the Church could afford to give them, most likely a great deal more than the average income that is paid to the pastor. We do not despair of something being done yet by means of lay agency.

But the best and most economical scheme in present circumstances is, so far as we see at present, that of *Itinerant Agency*, that is of appointing an ordained minister to travel and hold services through the entire district. Of course, to be a thorough success, the utmost care must needs be exercised in the selection of such a man. Perhaps it would be advisable in us not to enumerate the characteristics which we think requisite, it might be presumptuous in us to do that. We would say that he should get a salary as large as he would in a settled charge, if not larger. His duty then would be to visit in order every corner of the territory allotted to him, organize the families that he finds to be connected with us into stations, train them to conduct prayer-meetings and Sabbath-schools, and preach as often as the extent of his field allows him. We don't believe that his salary would be a heavy burden on the funds of the Church. If he instruct them properly, the several stations would raise from a half to three fourths of his salary, no matter how liberal it be. In this way not a family or individual, no matter how remote the situation may be, would be overlooked, every one would be made to feel that he is an object of interest to the Church, and our people would be preserved to us instead of being absorbed in other denominations.

We offer these suggestions for consideration; if any better solution of the difficulty occurs to any one let us have it. Our aim is to strengthen our cause in the land, and if that be attained we care not what plan be adopted. We have the fullest faith in the suitability of our Presbyterian order to this or any other country, whether poor or rich, whether populous or otherwise. But we have no sympathy with the selfishness of those who living in cities or towns, or populous rural districts, and being in the enjoyment of ordinances themselves, care not for their brethren of the same faith that may be found everywhere in the Province,