

recently, a part of Dr. McLeod's congregation.

SYDNEY with a large tract of surrounding country is under Dr. McLeod's pastoral care. The Doctor's charge is probably the largest within the bounds of the Synod. The progress they have made since the Doctor's settlement among them is truly remarkable and most gratifying. Cow Bay, Mira, Catalone, Glace Bay, Lingan, Bridgeport, and such like important posts are under Dr. McLeod's jurisdiction. — Peace, unity, docility, a readiness to do what is necessary for the support of the Gospel at home and its diffusion abroad, are characteristics of Dr. McLeod's congregation. Sydney Bay separates Dr. McLeod's charge from that of Rev. MATTHEW WILSON, at

SYDNEY MINES, whose labours also extend over a very considerable tract of country, including the Mines, North Bar, Little Bras d'Or, &c. This, too, is a prosperous and most peaceful congregation. At the head of Sydney Bay is Leitch's Creek, a new congregation, over which Rev. A. Farquharson presides with much success. The congregation is small, but growing with all the elasticity of youthhood.

North of Sydney Mines, and south of St. Ann's, lying in the embrace of the Bras d'Or Lake, is the island of Boularderie, inhabited almost wholly by Highlanders. — The Presbyterians are the majority, and are under the charge of Rev. James Fraser, a tried and honoured pioneer in the work of evangelization in Cape Breton. He is, we believe, the "father" of the Cape Breton ministry, his term of service bordering closely on thirty years. He has two churches on Boularderie, and both are usually well attended. Here, as in too many other places, the people are remiss in paying for the services they receive. The non-Presbyterian population on Boularderie are Roman Catholics.

In Cape Breton there is much scope for church extension. The population is increasing with great rapidity, owing to the development of the mineral resources of the island. The progress of some districts is without parallel in the sea provinces. It

will be the duty of our church to supply, with no niggard hand, the spiritual wants of this rapidly increasing population. Expense may be incurred at first; we may, for a time, have to give supplements to weak congregations and to catechists; but it will be an excellent investment of our resources — sure to pay, well and quickly. We rejoice to believe that our ministers in Cape Breton are alive to the emergency which confronts them.

Some brethren here have to encounter difficulties which are happily unknown in older sections of the country. Wherever a minority, however small, manifest discontent with their minister, a vigilant missionary, or a rambling sinner, steps in, tries to foment difficulties, fans the spark into a flame, and thus introduces, as much as in him lies, weakness and strife, where all should be harmony. We solemnly protest against this demoralizing system. It will do us, as a church, no appreciable harm, but it tends to weaken a few of our congregations, to relax the bonds of discipline, to bring the sacraments of our religion into contempt, and to stir up feelings of distrust between two denominations, which *should* have only one and the same interest. We could, of course, make reprisals, and carry on the same kind of guerilla strife with at least equal success, but God forbid that we should descend to anything so unworthy of our place and our commission! We trust that the system to which we refer may speedily take end.

On the whole we think that the prospects of the cause of the Redeemer, in Cape Breton, are unprecedentedly cheering. Our eyes have seen, and our ears have heard enough to convince us that the Lord is doing a great work by means of our church on this noble island. There is far more of real prosperity, of substantial strength, of peace and of unity, than we had ventured to expect. Our people are deeply attached to a church which they justly regard as holding the truth in purity and love, — the truth made still dearer to us all by the glorious struggles that have taken place in its vindication, struggles in which our fathers acted a noble part, and in which we our-