

Some Missions.

MABOU AND PORT HOOD.

Late last Autumn an application was made from a number of members of this congregation to the Presbytery of Pictou, for a deputation to enquire into its circumstances, with a view of adopting such measures, as might seem best calculated to promote its prosperity. The Presbytery, from the distance and difficulty of travelling in winter, delayed acceding to the request till their meeting in May last, when the Rev's John Campbell and George Patterson were appointed a deputation in accordance with the application, to enquire into the state of the congregation and report. They accordingly proceeded thither, and preached in the congregation on the first and second Sabbaths of June, the Rev. Mr Patterson, by appointment of Presbytery, preaching at Guysboro' on the last Sabbath of May. The following report of their procedure was submitted to the Presbytery on their return:—

REPORT.

Of the Deputation appointed to visit the congregation of Mabou and Port Hood.

The Deputation appointed by the Presbytery of Pictou to visit Mabou, and instructed to enquire into the state of the congregation there, and report what measures seem called for in its present circumstances, respectfully report to the Presbytery, that they have visited the congregation at the time appointed, and spent the 1st. and 2nd. sabbaths of this month within its bounds. On the first of these days the Rev Mr Campbell preached at Mabou, and the Rev Mr Patterson at Port Hood. On the second they assisted the Rev Mr Miller in dispensing the sacrament of the Lords Supper at Mabou. They also held services on each day of the week during their stay.

In order to ascertain the state of the congregation, they held conversations with Mr Miller, his elders, and other members of the congregation, who seemed best acquainted with its condition. They were both of opinion, that the object of their appointment would be better secured in

this way, than by a formal Presbyterial visitation. As the result of their enquiries, it may be stated generally, that all that they saw and heard, painfully impressed them with the conviction, that the state of religion was very low, and that there was an urgent call for more efficient ministerial labour.

On the Monday after the dispensation of the Sacrament, the deputation met with the congregation; and, after stating the object of their appointment, invited Mr Miller and the members of the congregation to a free and friendly statement of their views. They are happy to say, that on all sides the best feeling prevailed. On the part of Mr Miller, there was a disinterested regard for the welfare of the congregation, and an unwillingness to stand in the way of any arrangement which might be considered for the interests of the congregation; and the members of the congregation manifested a most becoming respect both for his feelings and interests. Yet it seemed impressed upon all, that some change was desirable and almost necessary; and Mr Miller having expressed his readiness to resign his charge into the hands of the Presbytery at its first meeting, the congregation, while testifying their continued esteem for him, resolved that no opposition should be offered to the acceptance of his resignation by the Presbytery.

The subject of an annuity to Mr Miller was then brought before the Congregation, when Mr Miller expressed his willingness, to trust to the liberality of the members of the congregation and of the benevolent in other sections of the Church, for what he would need for his support for the future. The congregation agreed to pay to him for the present year, which will end on the 1st December next, the same sum that they have been paying in previous years, and that they would pay him after that date a sum of not less than fifteen pounds per annum. And the members of the deputation, though they had no authority to pledge the funds of the Church, promised to use their personal influence, among the benevolent members of our Church in other quarters, on his behalf. In the propriety of these measures, the members of the deputation concurred, and they would recommend to the Presbytery the acceptance