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"IF I FORGOT THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET HER CUNNING."—Ps. 137, v. 5.

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CAPE BRETON AS A MISSIONARY FIELD.

The strength, the back bone we might almost say of the Church of Scotland in the Province of Nova Scotia, is in the single County of Pictou. But that we have not many and flourishing congregations in almost every district of the country has been owing rather to want of ability to supply the demand, than any lack of material. In the Presbytery of Halifax we have but two regularly organized churches, and these in the city—whereas had we had ministers to supply vacancies as they occurred, we might have had at the very least five flourishing congregations, as well as several preaching stations. Much of the ground abandoned in that quarter from pure necessity has been permanently lost. Other denominations have stepped in, in some instances even taking possession of our Church property, and establishing themselves in such a manner that we can now scarcely hope to get back what was once our own. We have two congregations and have lately acquired a third in the County of Cumberland—but as we stated at the outset, the strength of our Church, in point of numbers, and perhaps, take it all in all in point of ability or the means of sustaining and extending the great truths of our holy religion is in the County of Pictou.

Here there are at least a dozen large and well organized congregations, either supplied with stated ministers, or at least partially so. We have just had an accession of four missionaries, and it becomes a question of no small moment, how may these be best located for the interest of our Church. Where can they best be sent so as at once to carry the glad tidings to the greatest number and at the same time be conducive to the prosperity of our National Zion. These are two objects which ought never to be separated, and if worked out with an earnest and single purpose will be found to be the best, the surest, and most successful means of bringing the means of grace within reach of our people. Every living Church is an aggressive Church, seeking out new fields and sending into these fields fresh laborers. When it ceases to do so, it is a symptom of dangerous decay and an evidence of lethargy and deadness on the part of either ministers or people, possibly of both. We cannot depute our duties to others. They have work of their own, full and sufficient, and if they appear to relieve us, they do so by shearing us of a portion of our strength, of our worth in the sight of God and man, as well as of our own self-respect. It is a sad thing to be obliged to contract the limits of our field, to allow one place after