

and were also unable to forward the literature which your Committee sent them.

For the same reason of stress of weather, the districts of the Gatineau and Lievre, were unvisited, but Mr. Sieveright was enabled, through the kindness of Mr. Mather, of Chelsea, to forward to the Shanty-men of that district, a large supply of literature.

Owing to the necessity of thus abandoning part of their intended operations, your Committee have a balance in the hands of the Treasurer, with which the work may be the more hopefully engaged in next winter.

The very great importance of this Mission will be seen, when it is remembered that there are, at the lowest estimate, about 15000 men annually engaged in the Shanties on the Ottawa and its tributaries. These men are entirely cut off from the regular services of Public Worship: the Sabbath is to them generally a day of coarse amusement. Little is done for their spiritual welfare, and that little is, for the most part, done in a desultory and fragmentary way, according to the inclination or opportunities of those few Clergymen whose charges border on the lumbering districts. The Colporteurs of the Ottawa Bible Society endeavour to spread the Scriptures among the Shanty-men to as great an extent as they are able, but their labours seldom extend to conducting religious services. It should, moreover, be remembered, that such of the Shanty-men as live during the summer months in the country parishes, near the lumbering districts, carry with them the effects of their winter's carelessness, and often become centres of evil influence in such parishes.

Nor are the difficulties connected with this Mission very great or formidable. No opposition is offered on the part of the employers, but on the contrary, much encouragement, assistance and sympathy. Many of the men employed, perhaps half of the whole number, are Roman Catholics; yet, in so far as your Committee are aware, these readily listen to the preaching of the Gospel, and gladly receive the literature sent to them. To the French speaking portion of the Shanty-men, who are generally unable to read, it is more difficult for your Committee at present to provide the means of spiritual improvement. The work already accomplished, the experiments already made in this Mission, seem to prove very clearly that there are no difficulties in carrying the Gospel to the Lumbermen, which cannot be surmounted by piety, earnestness and kindly feeling, and also that religious literature, if at all interesting, will be eagerly perused by all of them who can read, in which class are included nearly all the Protestants, a portion of the French Canadians, and a few Irish Catholics. As regards the money requisite for carrying on the Mission, your Committee anticipate no difficulty whatever in this respect. The Employers contribute willingly: and though, for the present, your Committee think it advisable to solicit no subscription from the Shanty-men, yet when the benefits of such a Mission are felt by them, they would themselves in all probability support it.

What then, it may be asked, are the prospects of this Mission? Your Committee feel that the true way of meeting in the fullest manner possible the spiritual wants of the Lumbermen would be to have a general Protestant Mission, thoroughly non-sectarian, managed by a Central Board, composed of representatives of all Protestant denominations. Such a Board could engage such Preachers of the Gospel as from their earnestness, piety, and tact, would be qualified for the work. With this view your Committee desire the co-operation of all other Protestants who may feel an interest in the Mission. It is difficult for many reasons, to have settled Ministers leave their charges for

several weeks of men whose nances of religion the summer months labour in scattered meet with the ter in winter.

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In conclusion that the efforts of extended labour are urgent, and benefit to our Country with it which broad brotherly country is one it is sad that the neglected in reference be well for the time can never be an going forward in is to be confident the time when the time when the desert and the desert sh

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June 1st, 1869

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