

of our last meeting, which was of more than three hours' duration—all seeming loth to leave so blessed a place—two others privately expressed their confidence in the Saviour. From the strong feeling exhibited especially at this last meeting, and from the large attendance throughout—even in the busy haying season, there is reason to believe that there are many others not far from the kingdom of God. It was painful to be obliged to leave a people in such a condition. They have long prayed and begged for a pastor, and no doubt need one; but should their desire be granted, it is to be hoped that they will not be indulged, as is now too much the rule, in an ease and indolence which would rob them of that manly self-dependence that has produced in them so rich a culture. A minister is not needed for that place alone, but as a bishop for the whole of Cape Breton. Besides numerous Congregationalists or their descendants scattered throughout the Island, there is a congregation of some fifteen families at Cape North, meeting regularly under the guidance of an aged brother whose praise is in the mouth of all who know him. It is a great pity that there should be no recognized minister of our body in the whole island, where there are not only so many who already sympathise with our views, but also so many who do not come under any direct religious influence. The Margaree brethren, with a true missionary spirit, would be willing to spare their pastor a good portion of the time for itinerant labour.

A kind brother conveyed me on Tuesday, 28th, some 30 miles across the country to Big Baddeck, through a romantic glen, the road winding around the borders of lakes that skirted steep and lofty mountains, wooded to the water's edge. Cape Breton is the highland region of Nova Scotia; the geologist and the mere tourist will find equal pleasure in visiting this beautiful island. Having preached at Big Baddeck on Tuesday evening, and having baptised three children of as many families near Little Baddeck on Wednesday, I took steamer the following day for a delightful sail of about 30 miles, on Lake Bras d'Or, to Whykokomagh; thence by stage back to Port Hood, which I left early the next morning for home,—almost rendered a sorrowful home during my absence by the sickness, "nigh unto death," of our young est child.

Yours, &c.,

Pictou, N. S., Aug. 8th.

E. BARKER.

P.S.—I had intended, when I left home, paying a hurried visit also to Canso and Manchester, but found it better to spend all my available time at Margaree.

## Official.

**Congregational College of B. N. A.**—I have pleasure in acknowledging receipt of the following sums, per Rev. Dr. Lillie, collected by him from the churches at Stouffville and Markham, \$23 50; Cobourg, \$20 65; Bowmanville, \$24 00; donation from W. A. Wallis, \$5 00; Eramosa, \$21 25; Guelph, \$41 00; Stratford, \$18 69; Listowel, \$7 85; Georgetown, \$12 00; also per Rev. R. Wilson, from Sheffield, N. B., \$13 26:—\$187 20; less travelling expenses, &c., \$19 61; total, \$167 59.

JAMES P. CLARK, *Treasurer.*

Montreal, August 15th, 1868.

**The St. Francis Association of Congregational Ministers** meets at Stanstead Plains, on Tuesday, 22nd September, 1868, at 4 P. M. Associational Sermon in evening, Rev. A. Duff, Sherbrooke, preacher.

E. J. SHERRILL, *Scribe.*