

this important field? About 2 years ago the attention of the Presbytery was called to this district, and, in the lack of more eligible supply, a lay missionary was appointed to labour in Muskoka, Rama, and north Mara. Last summer a student of Knox College occupied the same field for 6 months, and this summer a student is also labouring in the field, devoting two thirds of his time to Muskoka, where are four promising stations, and one-third to North Mara. Nothing has yet been done in the way of church building, but two school-houses have been built, principally by the efforts of our people for general use, in which service is held. Other meetings are held in private houses, and are well attended. The people are most anxious for supply, and though unable to do much, meanwhile, for the supply of ordinances, yet a little timely aid for a year or two will enable them to provide for the means of grace, without much extraneous aid. As an instance of their willingness, we may mention that one settler, without solicitation, presented \$20 to the College and Home Mission Fund.

To complete this sketch of this section of the Mission Field, we turn next to North Mara, with 30 Presbyterian families, by whom a neat church has been erected, and to whose spiritual wants two pious elders minister, by conducting religious meetings in Gaelic and English. Along side of it lies Rama, in which a large tract of land has recently been surveyed and opened for settlement. It contains about ten Presbyterian families.

May we not conclude with asking:—"Have our people in these important settlements been attended to as they ought?" A good way of getting the right answer is to state what other bodies have been doing. For three years the Wesleyan and Episcopal Methodists have had missionaries in the field, at a yearly cost of \$300 to \$400 for each labourer, and more recently the Primitive Methodists have sent a third minister, while we, though having relatively a larger number of adherents, have given but the partial supply of a lay missionary for 9 and a student for 6 months. Can we, therefore, wonder if our people fall away from our Church and follow those who have been so liberally attending to their spiritual wants. What we believe is needed, is some minister of an apostolic and zealous spirit, who would settle in the midst of the people, and to whom a fixed salary would be guaranteed for three or four years. Were the right man found we have no doubt that a special appeal to some of our liberal laymen in and around Toronto, would procure the requisite funds, and the servant of God, though called on to endure hardness for a brief period, would be more than repaid by the spiritual fruits, that might be reasonably expected as the results of his labours. Who then will volunteer for this missionary outpost? May the Lord of the harvest speedily raise him up.

Some pecuniary aid in the erection of churches will also be necessary, when the settlers are so advanced as to undertake this work, and will be returned with interest to the donors, in the more rapid prosperity and extension of our Zion.

Our more favoured Sabbath Schools in the front townships might also do much by presenting books, tracts, &c., and thus bringing into existence, and fostering Sabbath Schools and religious meetings, we may state that a liberal donation of books, catechisms, &c., has just been forwarded by Mr. Jas. Campbell, bookseller, Toronto, and if any others are inclined to imitate his generosity, their donations may be sent to the Rev. Wm. Reid, Knox College.

Permit us to close this rather lengthy production, by commending to the ministers and members of our Church, and especially to those of the Toronto Presbytery, the outlying mission field, whose claims we have been presenting, and to bespeak their earnest prayers, in order that a suitable permanent missionary may be raised up, sufficient means provided, and the necessary measures adopted, to enable our Church to lay her foundations deep and broad, and to build a stately and magnificent spiritual edifice amid the rocks, rivers, and extensive forests of the Muskoka Settlement.