

which no other Society is prepared to meet, and that in the way most suited to the circumstances and mixed character of the people. The influence upon the moral character, intellect and social nature of a residence of ten, fifteen or twenty years in the backwoods, contending amid hard materialities in forest and field, without the ordinary means of grace, or even good reading matter for themselves or their children, has a demoralizing effect upon even Christian and cultivated minds. Why should we wonder at the state of society in the new portions of country? Severe language is frequently used by those more highly favoured when the need of such sections is presented, forgetting the power of circumstances in producing the state of things they deplore, and the claims of those sons of toil which have been overlooked, namely, the duty of the strong to help the weak. The new settlements require special attention. The men there, and the women and children who share their toil, confer a lasting benefit upon the country, they make their mark upon the face of the country, in changing by the labor of their hands, the wilderness forest to a fruitful field. They are public benefactors, and, in an industrial point of view, they are deserving the sympathy of those in comparative comfort, exempt from the burdens and privations peculiar to a new country. If certain sections have gained an unenviable reputation for crime, intemperance, and dishonest appropriation of goods and funds trusted out by the city merchants; if they publicly desecrate the Sabbath, and despise the means of grace, let the truth be known, and it will be found that Christian enterprise had failed to reach them with Sunday-school instruction, laying the foundation of their character, in knowledge of Christian doctrine and Bible truth. The jail of a certain district in Canada was not six months in the space of forty years without a number of occupants, till the most unenlightened portion of the country had been well supplied with Sunday-school privileges, then the jailor had not one prisoner in his care.

Let the means be employed by the Christian public without sectional or sectarian considerations, aiming at the evangelization of our entire country, and before long its moral and religious character will show the blessed results, and the material progress of Canada be greatly advanced.

An excellent Christian, a member of the Church of England, a judge in C. W., remarked to me recently, that so convinced was he of the value of Sabbath-schools, that he considered the expenditure of a large sum of money in their extension would prove more promotive of the peace, honor, and social and religious progress, and even the secular interests of our country, than by a similar expenditure in any other way; and the country be more than compensated in the lessened expense in Law, and in the support by the public of evil doers in Jails and Penitentiaries.

I turn now from the marked peculiarities of our field, and facts bearing upon the work in general, to give some particulars respecting the work of the year :—

An hundred and sixty-two places in all were visited, many of these were revisited, and from two to five meetings were held in each place, with a view to the permanence of the work, by the instruction of Teachers and various catechetical