

and chained, kept up an almost incessant illumination. Then came wind and rain in torrents, and all the hospitable homes in the neighbourhood were soon filled. No accident happened to the pleasure party of some hundreds, who reached their homes through the night and next morning; but the effects of the storm were visible in the beating down of broad acres of ripening oats and barley.

Mr. Salmon's charge is scattered. We had preaching on a week day at Salmon Creek in a school house, and on the Lord's day in a well finished church at Red bank, being the centre of the congregation; and on the afternoon of the same day, five miles up the river at the Forks.

The congregations were deeply attentive alike to sermon and address, cheerfully accepted apology for the failure of the deputation of last year to appear among them, and received kindly the services of the agent, as some small compensation, to be followed by a collection for the Home Mission fund, to which particular attention was called.

Besides these three preaching places Mr. S. has several others at various distances, so that between the study and the pulpit, and the school house desk, and the sick bed, and the waggon, he is not likely to eat much of the bread of idleness. "Wear out," he may; "rust out," he cannot.—But this spreading out of a man, or rather of a minister, over a whole country side, is becoming a great and a growing evil. It is not his labour but the people's loss that we chiefly deplore. While he is preaching to-day four or five miles from the centre, to some ten families who are learning to stay home till the minister comes to them, and repeating the same thing in another direction next Lord's day, the congregation in fact ceases to have any centre, and ministerial labour is in a great measure dissipated.

As an offset to this disadvantage and discouragement, Mr. S. is encouraged by the sobriety and promising conduct of many of the young people in this community.—There is very little intemperance and no rum shop in the congregation, in fact there is none in the community. The steamer coming twice a week with her open bar, is the chief source of temptation in the drinking line. The steamer herself is a public benefit, but her bar is a public nuisance, and a source of corruption, which ought to be removed by her enterprising proprietors.

We met with good men and women in this congregation, but there is ample room for progress. We question if the prevailing piety here is equal in tone or in extent to what it is in St. James'. The people are more various in descent, and have had less constancy of pastoral oversight. Their first minister, Rev. Mr. Canning, from Ireland, did not remain very long. Rev. H. B. Mc-

Kay laboured earnestly and acceptably for a few years and then another vacancy occurred, supplemented in summer by young men from the Divinity Hall, Messrs. T. Cumming and J. Sutherland, whose labours are well spoken of. We trust that the present connection may belong and spiritually prosperous.

We asked for John Fraser of Red Bank, (once of Lime Brook, East River, Pictou,) and found that he had gone to his rest. In his removal Mr. S. lost "a faithful man, and one who feared God above many." He served his generation, anticipated his departure, and from conducting the service of song and otherwise serving the church, entered into the joy of his Lord. He rejoiced in the union between the churches, and the celebration day in St. John was one of the happiest of his life. He was not spared long as an elder in the church united, but he had already "purchased to himself a good degree and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus." May his example be influential in leading his family and many in his district to serve the Lord.

Our Foreign Missions.

NEW HEBRIDES MISSION.

Since our last issue we have received a letter from Dr. Geddie of date Aug. 3rd, which we publish, from Mrs. Morrison from Sydney, Sept. 29th, and from Rev. Dr. Steele, Oct. 1st.

Respecting the mission Dr. Steele writes, "I had the pleasure of hearing from the missionary field lately. All were well.—The mission on Tanna was about to be resumed under more favourable auspices. Mr. Gordon had, in the meantime, chosen, with the full consent of his brethren, to settle on the other side of Erromanga, at Potinia Bay. The *Dayspring* with Dr. Geddie on board, was to visit the island of Espiritu Santo in this month."

MR. MORRISON'S HEALTH.

In a few paragraphs published in the *Record* for November, we stated that Mr. Morrison's health was better at the beginning of September, the date of his writing, than at any time since he had left Fate. We give the portion of his letter in which these remarks were founded, but regret to