

is about to proceed as an ordained missionary to the South Sea Islands, we resolved that the collection should be made at all the diets for the Heathen, an object that none but could and did approve of, and to which the people heartily responded. There were three diets of public worship, one in the middle of the day for the children, who were suitably addressed from Eccl. xii: 1., and other two for the adults,—and the proceeds of the whole amounted to \$12.50 (twelve dollars and fifty cents.) a liberal sum, showing how heartily the people had gone into the measure. I felt that my mission for that day had well succeeded.

I may mention that there are 25 families on the Island, 22 of whom belong to the Church of Scotland; however, they welcome a minister from any christian body and aid his cause. Ministers from P. E. Island have laboured here as well as from the mainland. The Islanders have now advanced materially in prosperity. When, twenty-two years ago, the writer first visited them, there were but 4 horses, now there are five times that number, and every year finds the people becoming more comfortable, so that they can easily afford to pay for the missionary service they get, which, it is well seen, they do willingly. In fact, one proposed making a yearly collection for the Heathen Mission—as, said he, at the year's end we would not miss it. I wish the rest of our sections would hear this and be animated with this spirit! Now that country people get far greater prices for their produce, and if thrifty, can become independent, it is avarice to withhold from God what he enables them to raise; and when a call is made for a mission collection or for any benevolent scheme, instead of absenting themselves or grudging their means, they should regard it as an honour to contribute of their substance and to give to His cause who gives so plentifully to them. Until our people shall regard liberality as a means of grace as well as a healthy sign of piety, they will never come up to the mark; and hence those ministers do a favor who stir up the people to give as the Lord has prospered them. I would that church members would learn to lay by for God's cause when they have, then would giving

be felt to be no burden. In the Magdalene Islands, Protestants have hitherto contributed nothing to the ministry or to any religious cause, and so know nothing of the luxury of benevolence. In Pictou Island, they do differently, and I trust it may be fairly said that the latter place is spiritually in a more prosperous condition, and likely to continue longer so than the Magdalenes. Those people that do nothing for the cause of God cannot be said to have profited by religion. Ministers are expected to be liberal, and we expect our people, country and town, to show that liberality to the cause of Christ, as well as attendance upon ordinances, is part of their religion; in fact, unless a man sows bountifully, he is as yet a stranger to the grace of Christ. But to return from this not uncalled for digression, Pictou Island has revived its Sabbath School under an efficient teacher, who, having both languages, will, I trust, prove a stimulus and an example. Its Sabbath readings it has not yet revived. I brought over a quantity of reading matter, such as may both interest and instruct, and were some one to translate to the aged one of Spurgeon's sermons, or Brook's Unsearchable Riches, there would be stores of knowledge, profitable to direct and comfort for many days hence. We were largely assisted by good men and true, who read, sung, and prayed in Gaelic, while the writer delivered plain and appropriate messages from John iv. and Rom. xiii.; altogether our visit was a pleasant and profitable one. May this isle yet send its quota of God-fearing men to join the ransomed throng that out of every kindred and language and people shall worship and sing: "Blessing and glory and honour and praise be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne and to the Lamb for ever"—Amen.

A. W. H.

Labour.

AMBITION occasionally has its victims among the poorest, though they are far from being the most degraded. There must be a good deal of native nobleness resident in the breasts of those who, surrounded on all sides by squalid poverty, not only manage to escape the squalor, but are found making a brave effort to rise in the social scale. Perhaps such people aim too high. It might be