

tants live along the Government roads, yet many families are found in retired places, scarcely accessible to any but foot passengers.

As is generally the case in newly settled countries, the people are very diverse in their origin, habits of thought and feeling, and in their religious sentiments. Society is in its forming state, fluctuating, impressible, and this united with a want of general information on the part of the people, makes it a fruitful field where spring up error and fanaticism in a great variety of forms. Some parts of these townships seem to have been burnt over with Millerism and kindred sects, leaving the minds of the people scathed and withering. There is no stage of society so critical as this. If a strong religious influence of the right stamp is infused at this point, it has a powerful and healthy influence in giving tone and direction to public sentiment as it takes its abiding form. If no such element is intermingled, it is greatly liable to become fixed in its opposition to evangelical religion, and to be almost impervious to future efforts.

In these towns there are three or four pious, intelligent, and educated clergymen, who bring to their work ardent devotion and untiring perseverance. They are doing much. Their hands are stayed up and their hearts cheered by the sympathies and cordial co-operation of a few earnest and faithful private christians, but the obstacles which meet them on all sides are many and stubborn. The sparse population; the extent of territory over which they must spread their labors, and, if I may so speak, *dilute* them; the ignorance of the people and their want of enterprise; the efforts of illiterate and fanatical preachers, so called, who on the one hand confuse the minds of those who listen to them as to what true religion is, and on the other destroy the confidence of many in religion altogether; these are some of the difficulties which impede—and, in part neutralize—their exertions; and which time and enduring labor alone can overcome. It is believed that the humble efforts in which we were engaged, will have no small influence in removing these obstacles, and will afford valuable aid to that instrumentality which above all others God blesses to the salvation of the soul—the Gospel ministry.

The destitution of all kinds of books, and especially of religious books, is great. Through the efficiency of the Bible Society, the inhabitants are nearly all supplied with the Word of God. Aside from this, few families possess any religious work; some may have one or two, the mass none at all. We find a general desire to purchase our books; sometimes they were sought with great eagerness; but the want of money even with those who possess a competency in other respects and the want of appreciating the importance of religious knowledge on the part of many, made our sales much smaller than the real necessities of the community demand.

*Our plan of operation* was usually as follows:—On going to a town we introduced ourselves as soon as possible to the evangelical clergyman, if there were such there, and if not, to some leading private christian with whom the way was usually prepared for us beforehand by notices in the periodical or by letters from your

committees to acquaint among the at religious pose. We under the upon them pared, we could con of a town rally able our head plenishing seeking e making o occasion t two by tw retired it family, w their valu such book ing chara religious c priate, we down and the means every hous not or wo always a r towns, the to the eye bers; and away, tho God, be th

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