

and sometimes protracted conversation upon points of truth, in which more useful information was conveyed than could possibly be in any other way.

A few weeks ago the steadfastness of these converts was tested. The Bishop in visiting the region was deeply incensed at the defection of his people, and he sent out a priest to bring the stray sheep back to the fold. The poor priest did his best, but with the Bible in their hands, the supposed wanderers showed that in fact they had only found the fold of Jesus. The priest was in great trouble. He asked one poor woman to show him the Bible. She handed him a large copy of the Scriptures, which she had borrowed of the Missionary. The intolerant bigot seized it and tore it into fragments, and threw them into the fire. The tears and expostulations of the woman were unheeded. The Priest watched the burning Bible until it was consumed, and then with an air of triumphant rage he quitted the house. The woman immediately communicated the facts to the Missionary, who sued the Priest for damages. The result was that the Priest paid for the Bible and the summons, and, through confidential friends, made an apology, and was glad on those terms to be let off. These events will doubtless tend to the furtherance of the Gospel.

The campaign of next year should begin with the public preaching of the Gospel among this people, and the organization of a Sabbath School. This cannot well be done without a place of worship. To initiate measures for the erection of such a place is one of the objects of my prospective journey. When I have seen this people again I will, God willing, let you know the result of my visit.

THE STATE OF RELIGION.

In issuing the following queries on the subject of the State of Religion, it will not be out of place to note that only the half of the Presbyteries, and hardly that number, complied with the order of Synod last year in sending in reports on the state of spiritual life to the Synod's Committee. In such circumstances, a report of a satisfactory kind cannot be prepared. Presbyteries are now reminded that the order for reports to be sent in was renewed at last meeting of Synod, and it is to be hoped that there will be no default this year. The Committee were also authorized to issue a set of queries on the subject. What is expected is that Presbyteries at the first meetings, which they hold in 1873, will have conferences based on the answers which sessions give to these queries—the answers to be forwarded on or before the time that the

Presbytery meets. I beg respectfully, then, to call attention to these queries, which are herewith appended, in order that the work of the Committee may be facilitated, and that the real end of the church may be kept before our own minds and the minds of our people.

In the name of the Committee,

SAMUEL HOUSTON, *Convener.*

QUERIES.

1. What appears to be the present condition of Religious Life in the congregation and district as compared with its condition at former periods? Are there any special causes in operation injuriously affecting it? and if so, what are they?
2. Do the Members of the Church shew a sense of their acknowledged obligations to honour Christ—by purity of life—by personal effort for the good of others? State as precisely as possible in what way the effort is put forth?
3. What is the nature of your personal dealings with intending communicants?
4. What evidence does the congregation give of interest in the cause of Christ generally? and what means are adopted to awaken and foster such an interest?
5. What evidence do parents give of their sense of responsibility to God as intrusted with the spiritual care of their children and domestics?
6. In what manner is pastoral visitation conducted?
7. Is there any outlying Presbyterian population in your district? and, if so, is there any effort put forth to reach and influence it in any way?

Home Missions.

Report of Rev. N. McKay, of Mission to Victoria Co., N. B.

To the Rev. the Presbytery of St. John:

In obedience to orders, I proceeded to the County of Victoria on the second week in August, and preached on the second Sabbath of that month at the Village of Andoon, at 11 a. m., and at a school-house three miles below at 6 p. m. Notwithstanding the short notice, and the heat of the weather, the thermometer standing at 90°, the attendance was very good. During the week, I visited the Indian Village at the mouth of the Tobique, and proceeded on Friday to Grand Falls. On Saturday, I had the pleasure of visiting, in company with Mr. Brouillette, several of the recent converts from Romanism there, and met several of them at a cottage meeting on the evening of the same day. On Sab-