

REPORT

OF THE

N. BRUNSWICK BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The Board of Management in presenting their first Annual Report, advert with unfeigned gratitude and pleasure to the rise and progress of this missionary movement. The work of Home Missions is not of very recent date with the Baptists of New Brunswick. It is coeval with their existence. In fact, our first churches were the fruits of Missionary labor. True, at that time, there was no organized Missionary Society; but our venerated fathers, the most of whom have gone to their rest, were then in the vigor of youth, and filled with zeal for the honor of Christ and for the salvation of souls, went forth to proclaim the message of salvation in the waste places of this country. Through their self-sacrificing exertions the wilderness and the solitary places were made glad, and the desert rejoiced and blossomed as the rose. The success which attended these early evangelical efforts prepared the way for more systematic operations, and in the year —, the first Home Missionary Society was formed. This Society was first under the direction of the one association, which at that time embraced all the churches. Subsequently the Association decided to appoint several Boards, to take charge of Home Missions, believing that these Boards, acting in different localities, would do the work more efficiently. Hence, one was appointed in the County of Westmorland, another in the County of Charlotte, another in Fredericton, and a fourth in the City of St. John. These several Boards expended the amount of funds put into their hands, in sending the Gospel to the most destitute sections of the Province, and they had the pleasure of knowing that the administrations of their Missionaries were frequently blessed in turning sinners to God.