

kind as the instruments referred to in these psalms has among the Hebrews. But without laying any stress on this as we do not believe that the spirit of these psalms can be better expressed by any of the implements either of ancient or modern festivity. We remark that this feeling of festal joy not only can be expressed in our New Testament worship, but properly belongs to those who enjoy New Testament privileges. The gospel is frequently represented as a feast, and festal joy is the proper exercise of those who enjoy its blessings. Those who sang these Psalms in this state of mind, truly express before God their spirit, while those who taking them literally think to express them by "things without life giving sound" grasp the shadow for the substance, and should remember that "the letter killeth while the spirit giveth life."

THE FUTURE.

Fresh reasons are constantly emerging why we should devote our best energies to the thorough evangelization of these sea provinces. They are, probably, destined to be centres of extensive influence for good or for evil. Already our hardy sailors spread the sail to woe every breeze and plow with adventurous keel every sea from the equator to the fields of everlasting ice. If their minds and hearts were imbued with the gospel, who could tell the good they might be the means of doing far away from home and native land? The missionaries of commerce might, nay, should prove honoured missionaries of the cross. Our fishermen should be in their measure "fishers of men." Then, the eyes of the world are being attracted to our vast stores of undeveloped mineral wealth—our mines of coal, gold, iron and other metals. These are, as yet, comparatively unexplored; but a new era has been ushered in, and the population around the great centres of coal mining is rapidly increasing by immigration. It seems probable that the population of Nova Scotia will increase with unprecedented rapidity. The other provinces also, and especially New Brunswick, afford vast scope for progress and improve-

ment. Our church claims to be the Presbyterian Church of all the sea Provinces. We must make good our claim by redoubled exertions to overtake our waste places, to heal our own breaches, to lengthen our cords and to strengthen our stakes. When men are young they are impressible, and the traces and tendencies of youthful training can never be wholly obliterated. As with men so with countries. Our Provinces are still in the freshness and impressibility of youth; and the impressions for good which we may make on them now may tell with increasing power twenty generations hence. English economists look to the time as not far distant when the mineral treasures of Great Britain shall be exhausted. When that takes place the mother country may have to transfer much of her manufacturing industry to these Provinces, thus vastly increasing our wealth and population. Our people may be then numbered by millions. This is not the dream of an enthusiast, and let us therefore prepare for our great destiny by planting the standard of the gospel wherever it is possible for us to do so. What would England and Scotland be to-day—what the United States—had not brave and faithful men laboured lovingly and believingly for Christ, amid great difficulties and perils, in the hope of a glorious future? We may have to sow in tears; we may have to wait long years for fruit,—yet it may be that in heaven we shall be called upon to witness with joy unspeakable the results of our labours.

DIGNITY OF THE WORK OF SABBATH SCHOOL TEACHING.

BY THE REV. THOMAS DOWNIE.

Throughout the churches connected with the Synod of the Lower Provinces of British North America there are, speaking in round numbers, about one thousand persons engaged in the work of Sabbath-School teaching. The influence which such a band of laborers in the cause of Christ is exerting must be great and wide-spread. Their office, as an instrument of diffusing a knowledge of Bible truth, and bringing immortal minds under its power, is second