

they should have stepped into the breach that would else have been left open to worse dangers than those incident to proselytizing, and if this were suffered to go on, soon all the old landmarks would be gone. Little more of time than a generation is required to sink out of sight traditions that have nothing in the weekly routine of life to keep them from smouldering into the cold ashes of absolute forgetfulness. But our church has awakened to see in a clearer light the problem that others were settling so happily for themselves; and perhaps never in her history has the Maritime Synod been so active in conserving its strength and pressing out for new territory, as at the present time. But still the problem is not settled to the very last fraction. Perhaps, indeed, it is a mark of a *finished* church, when everything is squared off to her satisfaction, when there remains no more of her promised land to be possessed. And so we have to rejoice that our work as a church in occupying the land before us is not yet completed. We have lately been spying out the land, particularly that part of it that constitutes our Maritime Synod. In the previous editorial we have adverted to the more elementary stages of church extension and consolidation with special reference to the neighboring province. And now we wish to speak with respect to those branches of the church that are full-grown but still have pressing needs, the congregations, and in particular those that are vacant. We have been astonished to find how many they are; and perhaps it will not be without interest if we give the results of our enquiry.

According to Presbyteries, they number as follows:—

Truro has 4, Sydney 3, Inverness 6, Halifax 7, Wallace 2, Pictou 8, Lunenburg and Shelburne 4, Miramichi 4, St. John 5, P. E. Island 4—47 in all. Their respective Presbyteries, we doubt not, are keeping these places pretty well supplied; but we could wish they might soon be all relieved from this duty by the happy settlement in the various fields of bishops over flocks that will all the more appreciate and help their new pastors because of their having been more gingerly fed by stranger hands.

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But, how are all these places to be supplied? There are a few unengaged ministers in the synod open to calls: in the Spring there will be half a dozen graduates from our Hall at Pine Hill,