

immeasurable strata, lies the fuel ready-made, which redresses the rigour of climate and bids the genial warmth of summer glow within our homes while wintry blasts without sweep the wide wastes of ice and snow. Thence we obtain directly or indirectly the food we eat and the clothing that covers us. But the earth is not only replenished with all we require to sustain life and render it agreeable. Over its whole surface and around us in every direction the beneficent Creator has poured a flood of beauty. The pleasant verdure of wood and meadow, and the gorgeous hues of innumerable flowers, the serene blue of the firmament illumined by day with the golden light of the sun, or garnished at night with moon and stars, all these devices (if we may so speak) of the Creator indicate the minute and tender care with which he has provided for the delight and enjoyment of man. How grateful we ought to be to God, when we contemplate the riches of his bounty! Ought it not to be our study to use every gift and every blessing in such a way as shall conduce most to His glory? Once again the serene leaves have fallen, and the fields are blank and gray, and nature enwrapped in her snowy shroud, shall soon be locked in the long deep sleep of winter. But out of her womb she hath borne the rich pledge of life to all creatures. The spirit of God has breathed on the earth, and made it fertile, and His good promise has been fulfilled, that seed time and harvest should never fail. Bless the Lord oh! my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name!

WEST BRANCH, RIVER JOHN,

The Rev. Mr. McMillan conducted the services, and as is customary on such occasions the elders of both congregations Free and Established took a part.

The subject from which Mr. McMillan endeavoured to assist the devotional feelings of the congregation was, Psalm 92. 1, "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord."

1st.—It is a profitable exercise for man's own soul to give thanks, to attach due importance to gifts, and to connect them to the Giver with links of gratitude.

2nd.—It is well pleasing into God, and not only so, but to withhold our gratitude from Him is not only ungrateful, but it is robbing Him of his dues. Ingratitude is vile, robbery, atrocious.

Causes of Thanksgiving:—1.—That our Rulers have appointed and proclaimed a day of thanksgiving, on which as a nation we might raise our hearts and voices in united gratitude to God for his manifold mercies.

2.—For the Bounty of God in crowning the year with his goodness, in causing "grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man, in which His wisdom, power, and goodness are seen to have been exercised, for supplying of our daily wants, and

while famine prevailed in other lands, plenty smiled on us.

3.—For the blessing of continual peace. While wars and rumours of wars caused other nations to tremble with fear, and shook kingdoms to the very centre, interrupting commerce and religion, peace smiled on us. While other lands were devastated and watered with human blood, ours received the early and latter rain, and yielded food for man and beast.

4.—For the averting of "Plague" from our midst. Slavish fear by whatever cause produced unfits man either for secular or religious duty. The presence of the "noisome pestilence" would have disturbed not only the enjoyment of families and society, but peaceful pursuits and solemn assemblies. But while other lands have been distracted by the ruthless plague in varied and loathsome forms, carrying its thousand victims to premature graves, no pestilential cloud lowered upon us to fill our grave yards in a day.

5.—For our spiritual blessing. The word, sacraments and prayer, are still continued. "All things are ready, and there is yet room," and there is still balm in Gilead and a Physician there, for the sick, and if we desire to be made whole Jesus is both able and willing. The same yesterday, to-day and forever.

ABSTRACT OF SERMON PREACHED IN ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, PICTOU, ON THURSDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER, BEING DAY OF THANKSGIVING.

Text, Isa. 31, 19:—"How great is the goodness which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee, which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men." That God is good all nature cries aloud. He is good in himself, *i. e.* amiable and excellent, the *summum bonum* and supreme portion of the soul; and he does us good, giving us rain from heaven and fruitful season, filling our hearts with food and gladness. To Ceres and Jupiter did the ancients ascribe the glory due to the Father of mercies from whom we derive every good and perfect gift. How great is His bounty? It is new every morning and fresh every moment.

"Ten thousand, thousand precious gifts

My daily thanks employ,

Nor is the least a cheerful heart

That tastes these gifts with joy."

His goodness in *providence*, the Psalmist mentions towards travellers, mariners, captives, invalids and farmers, in the 107 Psalm.

But it is possible that the goodness in the text is that of *redemption*. That cost more than creation. One word made the world, but the only begotten Son had to die to redeem it. This work is more honourable and glorious than that of Providence or creation, displaying the Divine perfections more, and