

and others who are not able to stand the cold of winter, and have not means of conveyance, the Sacrament may be dispensed there in the summer season.

There is great inconvenience experienced from the want of a suitable place of worship. We assembled in the upper story of a Tannery, though scarcely large enough to contain all the people, and into which, from its insufficient structure, it was not advisable to admit as many as it could accommodate. During sermon on Sabbath forenoon, while Mr. Sutherland was preaching to the Gaelic people in another place, a crack was heard which occasioned temporary alarm; but after some persons examined the building and declared that there was no danger, the service proceeded; and the English people being dismissed before the Gaelic people came in to communicate. Through the good providence of God, the solemnities of the day were concluded in peace and comfort. A grant of land in the neighbourhood of Sydenham has been obtained for the purpose of building a church on. The lot is now cleared; and it is expected that one will soon be raised. The erection of a large and central place of worship is indispensable to the prosperity of the congregation there, but the services of a stated labourer are equally so. I am happy to find that the people at Owen's Sound are now so far persuaded of their ability to support a Minister of the Gospel, that they have resolved to prepare statistics and apply to the Presbytery of Hamilton for the successive services of such preachers as can be obtained in order that they may have an opportunity of making choice of a Pastor. In the meantime, they are willing to subscribe something liberal to the Home Mission Fund. On the Communion Sabbath the collection amounted to £5. The wishes of this congregation should be met as far as practicable, and encouragement given to them by sending such preachers as may be at the disposal of the Presbytery.

In the lower division of the settlement some improvements are also visible. A little more liberality was shown than last year, in contributing to the H. M. Fund. We collected upwards of five pounds at different stations along the road where we preached, in addition to the five pounds collected at Sydenham. A Resolution has also been formed to build a church of some sort this year, in the vicinity of the river Matiland. Lots too have been applied for in other places along the line called the Garriatva Road. But while some seem anxious, and lament the present state of things others of the Presbyterians scattered along this settlement, are sinking in a hopeless of obtaining ordinance at the hands of their own church, and many turn indifference to religion altogether. I have endeavoured on every occasion to arouse them to think of making some effort themselves by consociation, meeting on the Sabbath for prayer, and other religious exercises, contributing to the H. M. Fund, giving their time and labour towards the erection of places of meeting in, and making application to the Presbytery as well as keeping up the habit of family worship,—in hopes of better times; and never to rest satisfied until they can state by report every Sabbath to the house of God. I wished to leave them with this impression, that in certain sense all depended upon their own exertions, and that they owed a duty to themselves, and to their families, and to the God who had brought them thither, dealt graciously towards them, and called them as professing Christians to be witnesses for him in the earth. I was, however, on several occasions attacked rather unceremoniously with expressions of dissatisfaction at the manner in which their claims had been met by us. I endeavoured to repel these in the best way I could. They were often quite unreasonable. But if not made use of as mere excuses, they at least manifest some lingering desire after what is good; and it remains with us according to our ability to fan the flame before it expires altogether. In these circumstances, if licensed preachers cannot be obtained, application should be made through the proper channel for some of our students to act during summer as Catechists in this extensive and rapidly increasing settlement.

I remain, dear Sir, Yours &c.,

G. SNELLIE.

(To the Editor of the Record)

MY DEAR SIR,—You have requested me to send you an account of my visit, to the Townships lying in the North and West of the Simcoe District. I now do so with the hope, that through the medium of the *Record*, the spiritual destitution of this part of the missionary field may be known to those who love the prosperity of Zion, and that the friends of our Home Mission may exert themselves to greater diligence, in order to supply the pressing wants of those Townships with active and zealous missionaries.

While laboring at Niagara, last February, I received a letter from the Clerk of the Toronto Presbytery, instructing me to proceed in the beginning of March to Notawasaga, to assist Mr. McMillan, who was to preside at the dispensation of the Lord's Supper at that place.

I repaired on the first week in March to Toronto, and there I received further instructions from the Presbytery, directing me after visiting Notawasaga, to visit also several Townships on the East and South of Lake Simcoe. With the view of fulfilling this mission, I left Toronto on Wednesday, the 10th of March, in the forenoon; and proceeded in an open waggon to Holland Landing, where I arrived late in the afternoon of the same day. This place is situated on the south side of Lake Simcoe; it lies low, and is rather unhealthy. There I learned that I had still sixty-five miles of my journey to perform, and that I would be under the necessity of travelling night and day, in order to reach Notawasaga in proper time. Having only a few hours to spend, I made the most of my time, in making inquiries concerning the Presbyterian cause in the place. There are but few Presbyterians, yet these appeared to be anxious to hear the word of life. I was sorry that I had not time to stay a night with them, but left with the promise, if I could make it convenient, I would give them a sermon on my return. During my short stay, I received much kindness from Mr. Armstrong, whom I found recovering from an attack of the ague. I left the Landing at nine o'clock at night, in a sleigh covered with canvass, being the only passenger, the driver made me a bed of Buffalo skins, on which I contrived to sleep during the night. Next morning I arrived at Barrie, the county town of the District. It stands on rising ground, on the north side of Kempenfeldt Bay. The steamboat on Lake Simcoe calls at it regularly during the summer months. It lies on the mail route to Penetanguishene and St. Vincent. In winter it receives all the trade of the country lying between these points. Barrie is one of those growing places that we often meet with in the west, where a few families when formed into a preaching station, serve as a nucleus around which the Presbyterians flowing into the place collect, and soon form large congregations. It is highly important that the Presbyterians living in such places should not be overlooked. When neglected, they either become cold and indifferent about religion, or join themselves to some other denomination. The people expressed a strong desire that I should give them a Sabbath before I left the District, but my Presbyterian engagements prevented me from complying with their wishes.

On Thursday afternoon I left Barrie, and proceeded westward in an open sleigh. The snow was from two to three feet deep on the level. The road after leaving Barrie is hilly, but as you advance westward it becomes level and swampy, and can only be passed with any degree of comfort during the dry season in summer and the frost in winter. The houses are but few along the road, some of them six and seven miles apart. The night set in very cold, and as the sleigh had no cover, I was under the necessity of stopping at a tavern. They were nominal Presbyterians, and permitted me to read a portion of scripture and pray with the family before going to bed. I embraced the opportunity of directing their attention to Christ and the things of eternity; they listened with attention, and requested me to pray with the family next morning. On Friday at noon I arrived at Mr. Mair's, our worthy catechist, at Notawasaga, where I met Mr. McMillan, who had arrived the night before. The middle of the

township lies high, and commands a fine view of the bay of the same name, and the peninsula on the opposite shore. It is nearly all settled with a Gaelic population, but most of them understand the English. They have no house of worship, but during the communion season, we were kindly favoured with the use of the Independent Church. In view of the dispensation of the Lord's Supper, some of the people had come from a distance of twelve miles, and remained there during the whole season. On Saturday, I officiated in the forenoon at 11 o'clock, and Mr. McMillan in Gaelic in the afternoon.

On each of these occasions we had a tolerably fair audience. Immediately after the service, Mr. McMillan held a meeting of season, for the purpose of receiving intending communicants. On this occasion many, both of the old and young, came forward. From the peculiar views which our Gaelic brethren entertain concerning the solemnity of the Lord's Supper, they often neglect the command, "do this in remembrance of me," and some never communicate until they are far advanced in life. This custom appears to be giving way, as several young persons came forward on this occasion to obey the command. The scene was very affecting. Some of the intending communicants were old men and women, while others were still under twenty. All were deeply affected,—sobs and tears marked the working of the Spirit within. The whole congregation appeared to be visited with deep religious earnestness, and I trust the Spirit of God was there.

On Sabbath we met in the forenoon, in a school-house near the church, for the English congregation, and in the church for the Gaelic. Both places were crowded during the whole day, and many stood all the time. According to a previous arrangement, the English congregation went to the church at half-past two. The house was so well filled that it was difficult to gain admittance. Every seat was filled, and every place that a person could stand upon was occupied. I made my way through the people to the pulpit. Mr. McMillan was just finishing the Gaelic service. I was very much struck with the deep feeling of solemnity that pervaded the whole congregation. All were seriously impressed, and some were affected to tears. The same marked attention and deep feeling of religious earnestness continued during the whole of the afternoon service, and, I doubt not, many of the congregation were edified and comforted. After the congregation was dismissed, the people were not satisfied with what they had received during the day. A number of young people came to our lodging at night, to hear more about Christ and the way of salvation. We read and explained a portion of God's Word to them, conversed on religious subjects, prayed, and dismissed them at ten o'clock. There is evidently a work of God going on in that place—there is a hungering and a thirsting after the bread of life. May God supply with spiritual food the appetite which he has created. Immediately after service, I took my leave of these people, regretting that I could not visit St. Vincent, which lies north-west from Notawasaga. The people were anxious to hear the Gospel, and had sent a letter to Mr. Mair, requesting me to visit them before leaving the place. Proceeding eastward, on my way to Oro, I stopped on Monday night with Mr. Currie, one of our Elders in Sunnidale. This Township joins Notawasaga on the East. There are quite a number of Presbyterian families in that place attached to our cause. Mr. Mair, our Catechist, visits them as often as he can. When he cannot visit them, they assemble themselves on the Lord's Day, and hold a prayer meeting. They have also a Sunday School, which is well attended. I had only time to visit a few families in the Township, but I learned from Mr. Currie that there is an increasing desire among the people for the Word and ordinances.

I left Sunnidale on Tuesday morning, and came to Mrs. Burns', on the Penetanguishene Road, at 9 o'clock at night, intending next day to visit some Presbyterian families living in Vespra and Medonte. On Wednesday I visited several families, and preached the following day in a school-house, about two miles North of Mrs. Burns'.