

DRAUGHTS OF SCHEMES

FOR

ITINERARY PREACHING.

THE want of missionaries, for supplying the religious destitution of this colony, by itinerary preaching, has long been much felt, and, so far as can be foreseen, will continue to be felt more or less for some years to come; yet, in the absence of missionary agency, I am of opinion, that by the judicious use of the means which we possess, through some well digested plan, much good might be done and advantage gained, by the itinerary preaching of ministers. The disproportion between our Presbyterian population and ministers, is less than has been generally supposed, and cannot, therefore, be the principal cause of the existing spiritual destitution. On the supposition that the Presbyterian population in Canada is about one hundred thousand, and deducting, for children, one-third, we have sixty-six thousand one hundred and sixty-six, which divided by seventy, (the number of ministers on the Synod Roll,) gives seven hundred and forty for each minister. From this it is evident that their destitution is to be attributed principally to their very scattered localities, which obstacle is rendered more formidable by the want or bad state of roads: but surely this difficulty is surmountable,—it is not one which will not yield to means judiciously employed. Besides, the natural tendency and onward movement of every thing, in a country settling by emigration, especially from countries already civilized and enlightened, must give a decreasing tendency to such an