

of catechizing within these bounds, I discerned that no steps whatever had been taken towards organizing meetings,—the elders having not even seen each other in an interval of several weeks. At the close of the forenoon service, I addressed the congregation on the subject of the *Missionary Record*, recommending it on account of its extreme cheapness, the valuable information which it will be sure to contain, and the absolute necessity of some periodical in every colonial church.

On Sabbath, the 26th of the same month, I preached in Wallace, at the request of my friend, Mr. Christie, who undertook my duties at River John. On Sabbath, the 2d of January, 1859, I was at Cape John a second time, the weather being less severe than formerly, and congregations were much more numerous. I again spoke on the subject of the *Record*. I mention that the principal, indeed the only objection, which the people here urge against subscribing for that publication, is the fact that having no way-office in their settlement, they are under the necessity either of calling on Pictou for the express purpose of calling at the post-office for their papers and correspondence, or of waiting till some other important business should lead them there,—the distance being so great as to make a serious journey. From this cause, the *Record* was frequently four or five weeks old when it reached Cape John,—frequently it did not arrive at all. To obviate this difficulty, in the meantime, I would suggest that the papers intended for the Cape be entrusted to some person for delivery—a service which I will gladly perform. If this be done, I would venture to promise a largely increased subscription.

After service on this occasion, I journeyed towards the extremity of the Cape, over roads rendered exceedingly difficult by snow-drifts. On Monday evening, according to announcement previously made, I held a diet of catechizing in Melville's schoolhouse, at the Cross Roads. The attendance, composed chiefly of the young of both sexes, with a fair sprinkling of adults, was numerous,—the schoolhouse being crowded. The knowledge displayed by the parties present of the Shorter Catechism, and of divine truth generally, was very creditable, and the meeting was in every respect successful. I expressed a hope that a larger gathering would be arranged for the next end of the district, when I next paid a visit.

In conversation with some of the people at the further end of Cape John, the desire on that part was intimated of forming a union with the congregation at River John, that village being much nearer to them, and more accessible than their present place of worship. The people of River John have already purchased a site for their proposed meeting-house, and purpose to commence building in spring; I am of the opinion that, were this scheme effected, it would materially benefit the parties concerned, and in particular would

tend to the consolidation and strengthening of our interests in River John.

On Sabbath, the 9th of January, I was at St. Mary's. I had almost incredible difficulty in making the journey thither. After I had reached the Blue Mountain, a storm of wind and rain came on, such as has been rarely paralleled in this country, and the rivers and brooks were in consequence flooded to such an extent as to render the roads in many places impassable, if not dangerous. I arrived at the confines of the Garden of Eden late on Saturday night, and early next morning started on horseback, in the expectation of being able to complete my journey in time for the forenoon service. I was disappointed, however; and after floundering through half-frozen rivers and brooks, dismounting occasionally to lead my horse through woods, in which we both frequently sank up to the loins in treacherous snow-pits, and encountering many other perplexing difficulties and delays, I at length arrived at the meeting-house at about one o'clock. The people of St. Mary's, after the storm of the previous week, had abandoned all hopes of seeing me at the time appointed. A few assembled at short notice in the house of Mr. Angus Cameron, and being joined by the major part of the Free Church congregation, which had met and been disappointed of service in consequence of the state of the roads, I had as large a congregation as the house would accommodate. We could not have assembled in the church, for there is no stove there, and the degree of cold was great. I conducted one service. During the week, I was occupied chiefly in visiting the members of the congregation at their houses; and I must here bear testimony to the unaffected kindness of the greeting which I received, and in every respect where the interests of the church are concerned, to the sincerity, loyalty, and enthusiastic devotion of these people of St. Mary's. Considering the smallness of their numbers, and their complete isolation, they have done, and they are still continuing to do, marvels. To one family especially—that of Mr. Angus Cameron—the church in this county owes a deep debt of gratitude. Both individually and collectively that family has been generous and indefatigable in the cause, almost beyond precedent.

On Sabbath, the 16th, the weather being very mild, we were enabled to meet in the church. The congregation was very large, chiefly composed of the younger people of the settlement, who understand English well, and much better than seniors. On the following Monday, a congregational meeting was held at the house of Mr. Angus Cameron, for the purpose of arranging congregational matters for the current year. Various interests and topics were discussed: a measurement of the site and surrounding land generously granted to the church, free, by the proprietors, Messrs. W. M. Clarke and John Cameron, was directed to be made on the following day, with the view to the drawing up of a formal and legal