

gregation formed in that place. Although a division has since unhappily taken place, yet the attendance is very encouraging. We have still a number of attached friends, who are exceedingly desirous that public worship should be maintained in the place where they and their fathers worshipped for so many years. Public worship has been performed always once a month and sometimes oftener, by Mr. Wilson and myself in the school house at Sackville during the year. Although the population belong to different religious denominations, yet they all cordially join together in the services of the sanctuary—the attendance upon our ministrations is always good, and had Mr. Wilson remained in the Province, it is highly probable that a place of worship would have been erected and a congregation formed in this rising village. Should our services unfortunately be discontinued in this promising station, our friends, who are amongst the warmest and most liberal supporters of the church there, would be greatly disappointed and our cause sustain serious injury.

Passing on to the eastward six or seven miles from Sackville, we reach the school house at Lake Thomas, where public worship has been performed once a month for several years, by our ministers. There are a considerable number of Presbyterian families resident in this district, who esteem it as a great privilege to have an opportunity of attending upon the ordinances of religion in that place. The attendance varies, as in other places, but in fine weather a great number, more especially of young persons, assemble to hear the word of God. A Sabbath school has been lately opened under the direction of some zealous heads of families, and it is hoped that the united services of the church and school will produce a salutary religious impression upon the minds of many of the inhabitants. There is an excellent road between Sackville and Lake Thomas—the distance between the two places is only about six or seven miles, and an active zealous clergyman could easily officiate in both places on the same Lord's day, and extend the sphere of our operations within the bounds of our missions.

The only remaining district which I have regularly visited during the past year is the Hall Settlement, on the line of the railroad to Truro. This, although an old, has not hitherto been a flourishing settlement, being left for many years, almost entirely destitute of elementary or religious instruction. Of late a school has been taught in the settlement, and for the last two or three years, I have visited it as often as I could find opportunity, the population being nearly all Presbyterians, and desirous to wait upon our public instructions. Here, our prospects are becoming every year more and more encouraging, as in addition to the resident population, several brick-yards have been opened, where a number of mechanics and laborers

find constant employment. Of these, a number are Presbyterians, who attend regularly at our place of worship and contribute cheerfully to the support of the gospel.

Such is a brief view of the field of ministerial services. I have only small congregations, it is true, at each station, compared with the large assemblages in the city, but united together, they would form a very respectable congregation, amounting to several hundred persons. My time amongst them at present on the Lord's day is fully occupied, and unless these stations receive assistance from other ministers, our missionary operations will be necessarily impeded in a widely extended section of the Province; and should Mr. Stewart be fixed in a pastoral charge, it would be impossible for us even to occupy our present field without an additional missionary.

The Presbytery will be happy to learn that in the districts in which I officiated, there is an anxious desire to see and to hear other members of the Presbytery, and I think it would be highly conducive to the prosperity of our missions should public meetings be occasionally held in each district under the auspices of the Presbytery, as amongst other denominations, for diffusing missionary and religious intelligence amongst our Presbyterian population.

I have much pleasure in stating in the conclusion of this report, that our people in all the districts recognise the duty of supporting the ordinances of religion. Subscription lists have been opened and filled up in each station; and besides defraying the current expenses, considerable sums have been raised for missionary purposes, which I have recommended them to pay over to the Treasurer of the Home Mission Association.

JOHN MARTIN.

HALIFAX PRESBYTERY.

HALIFAX, N. S., 2ND FEB'Y, 1860.

Which day the Presbytery of Halifax met according to appointment within the setting of St. Matthew's Church, and was constituted with prayer.

Sederunt: Rev. John Martin, Moderator; Rev. Messrs. Scott, Boyd, and Jardine, Ministers; Dr. Avery and Mr. Robert McDonald, Elders.

The minutes of last ordinary meeting were read, sustained, and ordered to be engrossed.

The committee re-appointed at last meeting of Presbytery to correspond with the various mission stations within the bounds reported that they had written to Sackville, Lake Thomas, and Laurencetown, but have as yet received no answer.

The Rev. Geo. W. Stewart reported verbally that he had fulfilled his appointments at Musquodoboit and Truro, and stated that the congregations in these places were steadily