

THE PEOPLE.

Many of the original settlers of this district were immigrants from the North of Ireland, and belonged to the Presbyterian Church. For years no Presbyterian minister visited them, and in consequence the great majority joined other denominations. The visit of Rev. Mr. Stirling and others some time since was gladly received, and is still gratefully remembered. Had a Catechist or Probationer been regularly employed in this neighbourhood, it can scarcely be doubted that ere this, there would have been two or three flourishing churches there, instead of a few solitary Presbyterian families, scattered here and there over the entire field. The majority of the present inhabitants belong to the Baptist and Methodist Churches, and have regular weekly or fortnightly services.

ROUTINE OF DUTY.

The scattered nature of the district, extending over a distance of more than sixty miles, made it impossible to remain longer than a week in any one place, and rendered necessary the adoption of the itinerating method. Beginning with Petticoe and Salisbury I visited the other stations in the order in which they are enumerated, making three complete circuits, besides supplying Mr. Murray's pulpit in Moncton, on two Sabbaths. With rare exceptions, two services were held each Sabbath, the times and places of meeting being arranged so as not to conflict with those of other churches; a task rendered easy by the friendly assistance and cordial co-operation of ministers of the Baptist and Methodist communions. The attendance at these meetings was good, in many places excellent; and the attention manifested all that could be desired. Owing to the extent of the field and the very small proportion of Presbyterian families it contains, it was impossible to organize Bible Classes or Prayer Meetings, particularly as these already existed in the majority of the places mentioned. When practicable I visited such meetings, and also the Sabbath Schools, which appear to be conducted with zeal and diligence in all the stations, except Hopewell Cape.

CORDIALITY AND ANXIETY OF THE PEOPLE.

I visited almost all the Presbyterian families and many others throughout the district, being everywhere most kindly received and hospitably entertained. Every possible assistance was cheerfully and freely given me. A strong desire was expressed by many for a regular supply of services by your Presbytery. The few Presbyterian families in Hopewell and vicinity with praiseworthy zeal, have expressed their willingness to build a church, either with or

without the co-operation of their Baptist brethren, providing the Presbytery will secure them regular supply. It is to be hoped that such a commendable spirit will meet with the recognition and encouragement it merits, and that ere long it may cease to be said that there is not a single Presbyterian congregation or place of worship in Albert County. The growing importance of this district, which in all probability will soon be greatly increased by the building of the projected Albert Railway, makes it doubly important that the Presbyterian Church should endeavour to retain there that foothold which it ought never to have suffered itself to lose. It is to be earnestly hoped that the wants of this large and interesting field may henceforth receive more careful attention at the hands of the Church, and that the time may soon arrive when, to as great an extent as possible, the neglect of past years shall be atoned for. That my feeble and unworthy services may be made instrumental in bringing about such a result, and that the seed sown amid much weakness may spring up and bear fruit to the glory of God is my earnest prayer.

My grateful acknowledgments are due to the various friends by whom I was so kindly assisted and hospitably entertained, particularly to Revs. J. D. Murray and S. Houston.

Our Foreign Missions.

We have received the Annual Reports of Rev. Messrs. Morton and Grant with intelligence of the safe arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Christie in San Fernando. We have also on hand a letter from Rev. Mr. Morton for publication, but we have devoted so much room to the important news from Edinburgh respecting the progress of the kingdom of Christ in Scotland that our readers must wait a month for farther Foreign Missionary intelligence.

Minutes of the New Hebrides Mission Synod.

ANEITYUM, NEW HEBRIDES,
July 18th, 1873.

1. The New Hebrides Mission Synod met this day at Anelghaut, the station of the Rev. J. D. Murray. Present, Revs. Messrs. Inglis, Paton, Copeland, Watt, Milne, Murray, Robertson, McKenzie and McDonald.