

marked increase, until now, on a fine evening, their numbers will amount to about 120 souls. This is very encouraging, and the evident improvement in the attention of the hearers to the sacred word is a clear indication of the interest they take in holy things, even though I had not an additional proof of the fact in the long distance which not a few have to walk in order to be present at our meetings.

At the solicitation of the Rev. Robert Murray, Editor of the *Presbyterian Witness*, I have taken up a new station about five miles beyond the Arm. There are quite a number of families scattered over that rough and rocky region, who meet in a small building belonging to the sister Presbyterian Church. They have had occasional services from that body, but so irregularly that the congregation did not seem to flourish. Many of the young people walk in to the Arm on fine Sabbath evenings; hence it comes that our congregations there are so much at the mercy of the weather. But the latter place is too far away for persons of more mature years to attend without considerable difficulty. For this reason I have promised them a monthly service on the Sabbath afternoon. I have been enabled to keep those appointments heretofore, through the kindness of the Minister of St. Andrew's, who has taken my place at Richmond on the Sabbath afternoons of my absence. This new station is a very interesting one, and lies naturally in connection with the Arm. I don't know the exact number of families which are to be found there, but I should say that twenty-five or thirty would be about correct, and the average congregation about 50 souls; on one occasion, 60. They are not in affluent circumstances, but some of them are very comfortable, and a number have subscribed, according to their means, to the support of weekly services at the North-West Arm. Two collectors have canvassed this new station in the interest of the Presbytery's Home Mission Fund, and, as the result, they have handed me the respectable sum of \$10.62½.

I have conducted services regularly three times a-day since the middle of last summer, when the Wesleyans withdrew from our Richmond meeting-place to their own new Church on Kaye Street. The hours of worship have been at Richmond 11 A. M. and 4 P. M., and at North-West Arm 7 P. M.

A monthly course of Lectures in the Arm Church has been very well attended, and the Temperance Division which meets in the same place is about as prosperous as such organizations usually are. In concluding this Report, which is perhaps more lengthy than interesting, I think I can safely say that much good has been done. The facts brought to your notice, especially those which refer to the Arm and the new station of Goodwood, together with the flourishing condition of the Sabbath Schools, reported some time ago, are very encouraging indeed; and were it not for the feeling which has long had possession of my mind, and which I don't think I ought to neglect, that my proper sphere of labour is the wider mission-field of the great Pacific region, I should be well satisfied to spend years of my life in the interesting locality which you assigned to my charge nearly eighteen months ago. I know of no field in these Lower Provinces that has so many advantages for an earnest young man as this. He can get an amount of work to do, in a limited sphere, it is true, but all teaching practical lessons of incalculable value, when he moves into a wider field. He can have all the advantages of a city charge, with some of those generally possessed only by the overseers of rural congregations; he can have the benefit of taking counsel at any time with ministerial brethren in matters that might perplex his inexperienced mind; while still remaining the pastor of his own ecclesiastical domain. The foregoing facts and suggestions are submitted with every sentiment of respect, by

Your obdt. servt.,

JOHN R. THOMPSON.

Richmond, N. S., March, 1870.