

ceiving Mr. Grant's visits had not enjoyed the preaching of the gospel since the tour of Mr. Forbes, of Lochaber, in April. A Sabbath was spent in each place, meetings held on week days, and collections made which were expended in payment of Mr. Grant's expenses and for supply to his pulpit.

REV. MR. ROSS'S MISSION.

In three weeks in September, Mr. Ross preached 17 times, in Lake Ainslie, Margaree Harbour, Margaree N. E. Branch, Baddeck Village, Middle River, Little Narrows, Whyecomaah, River Dennis, Malagawatch, West Bay, Black River, West Bay Points, St. Peters.

Mr. Ross neither received nor paid money in those places. He did not receive, because no intimations of collections were made, but he reminded the people of the claims of the Home Mission Fund. He did not pay because "he was conveyed from station to station without charge, and almost (as he says in his report) smothered with kindness." While Mr. Ross was doing the work, the Ladies of his charge, not only acquiesced, with the rest of his congregation, in his absence for a season, but generously, and we must say, nobly came forward and met all expenses incurred in the supply of his pulpit, leaving a balance in our hands.

Besides this interesting fact the Board have to report another financial effect of the two visits to St. Peter's. Within the month past, a remittance of over Fifty Dollars has been made by A. G. McLean, Esq., raised at West Bay, Points, Black River, South Mountain, North Mountain, Grand Ance, and St. Peter's, accompanied with warmest expressions of gratitude to the Pictou Presbytery, the Board, and especially to the brethren who visited them in person.

MORE PERMANENT SUPPLY.

Such aid, though valuable, was spasmodic and temporary, and the Board deliberated often, and earnestly about exercising the power delegated by Synod to call an ordained man from the charge of one congregation to superintend three or four, and to be in fact an Evangelist rather than a Pastor. It was felt to be an extraordinary step, and to involve great constitutional questions, some of which had not been looked at by Synod. Farther if acted upon it could only be temporary and could succeed only at the expense of Pictou town, Barney's River, or some other part of the church. The Board paused, and the difficulties increasing, rather than disappearing, they were led into what they trust may prove the more excellent way of procuring supply for Cape Breton without leaving unmanned any of our watch-towers. Having heard that Rev. Adam McKay, of Ontario,

was willing to spend 3 or 4 months in Cape Breton early this summer, if invited, and that Mr. Alexander Grant, Probationer of Islay in Scotland, would probably accept an invitation; the Board lost no time in inviting them, requesting the aid and co-operation of the Colonial Committee of the Free Church, in procuring Mr. Grant's services; the Board offering to meet all expenses; and we feel thankful to be able to state that the two brethren have not only accepted our invitation, but are both now engaged in Cape Breton. From one of the vacant congregations an invitation has been sent to Mr. McIver, Probationer of the Free Church of Scotland which is likely to meet with a favourable response, and the Board are now in correspondence with another preacher in Ontario, whose services they expect to secure.

It will thus be seen, that as far as Gaelic Preachers are concerned, the prospect of supply is greatly superior to what it was one year ago; and the Board while acknowledging their obligations to the delegates who responded to their calls, would also record their thanks to Rev. D. B. Blair for his valuable suggestions and promptings, by which they were at once encouraged and stimulated; also to Rev. Peter Hope, Secretary to the Free Colonial Committee for his ready aid, and to the Committee itself for a grant of Ten Pounds volunteered by them as outfit to Mr. Grant.

PROBATIONERS AND CATECHISTS.

While we have thus given prominence to the work, first South and then North and East, we don't think lightly of other efforts made to sow the good seed in intermediate portions of the field. A busy season was spent by Mr. Edwin Smith, at Baillie, last summer with good results, the congregation waking up to a determination to make an early effort to obtain a Pastor. Mr. J. W. McKenzie laboured at Woodstock and Richmond, with similar results. Mr. J. W. Nelson faithfully did the work assigned him in several Presbyteries, while Mr. McCurdy was employed in the supply of Fredericton, Mr. J. Leishman at Buctouche and Cocagne, Mr. A. Thompson at Digby and Hillsboro', and Mr. Arthur F. Carr on the Eastern Shore, between Musquodoboit Harbour and Sheet Harbour congregations.

Rev. Mr. Stirling itinerated in different parts of Pictou Presbytery, but chiefly in the Presbytery of Victoria and Richmond, supplying Mabou, Margaree, Lake Ainslie and Broad Cove, and in all these places his services were appreciated and his stay solicited.

Without enlarging further it may suffice to state that the vacant congregations generally enjoyed in turn as nearly as could be arranged the services of the ministers and probationers at the Board's disposal.