

This Society being constituted last year as an Association united to promote the evangelization and civilization of the Indians of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, the Committee lost no time in formally applying to Mr. Rand to ascertain his willingness to act in conjunction with, and subject to, the general direction of the Committee, upon terms which were previously understood. His cordial consent was unhesitatingly given, and gladly received; and Mr. R. was left to prosecute his labours in the way which he thought most advantageous, the Committee having full confidence in his judgment, as well as in his integrity, and being assured of his desire to prosecute the work with vigour. During the latter part of autumn and the winter months, Mr. Rand was occupied almost exclusively in the study of the language. This object was pursued sometimes in connection with the work of translation, and again while labouring in compiling a dictionary. It was kept in view in his visits among the Indians, and in their occasional visits to him. The Committee feel it to be unnecessary to enlarge on the importance of this department of his labours. Life is uncertain. Many a missionary has been cut down at the commencement of his work, and his labours lost, because not thus committed to writing. It is of great consequence that Mr. Rand's knowledge of the language, so far as he has attained, should be preserved, to diminish the labours of all who shall follow him in this work, for we do not regard him as the only one who is to tread this path. And while this is a most necessary work, no man can say that it is sectarian. It is one which the Scholar and the Christian, the Legislator and the Missionary, the Protestant and the Roman Catholic, may alike patronise, and in the completion of which they may all rejoice. In December Mr. Rand procured the services of an intelligent Micmac for a time, and after his time had expired he writes from Charlottetown, Jany. 8th—"I am labouring night and day at my Dictionary. I got a teacher providentially. A tremendous storm drove two Indians under my roof for shelter one evening. They staid all night, and attempted to go home next day. One of them, a woman, was obliged to put back. I found she could help me to correct my lists of words most admirably, preparatory to their being inserted in the *Big Book*. So we took her into the parlour, and went to work. The family, especially the children, were quite attached to her. Every evening she would tell them a long story, I acting as their interpreter. Some of the most curious and best legends which I have yet heard, she gave us. She was very civil, modest and industrious. She knit socks, &c., and seemed quite pleased with civilized life. She attended a prayer meeting, listened attentively to the Scriptures, and to religious instruction and advice. May the God of all grace bless and save her! I have now work enough for some weeks cut out, and then Paul has promised to come and help me to proceed in translating." On the 21st December, Mr. Rand again informed the Committee that his whole time was devoted to the Dictionary. The following extracts will convey a pretty correct idea of the nature and difficulties of the undertaking:—

"I am working day and night," he writes "at what is the veriest drudgery of the whole business, and which, were it not considered on all hands of primary importance, I should be strongly tempted to postpone. I have, during the last four years and a half, collected *some thousands of words*, and written them down. But though of more value than gold as a vocabulary: for, all the purposes of a dictionary they are, in their disarranged state, almost useless. The first and generally the second letter are arranged alphabetically, but that is all. This was all I could do at first, collecting the words as I did by conversation and not from books, and never knowing what the next word