

the means of grace, in their support of the ordinances of religion, and in their contributions to the schemes of the church to leave the "things which are behind and to reach forth unto those things which are before," and they would earnestly pray that all connected with this flock may be visited with times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord."

#### VISITATION AT BLACK RIVER.

The Presbytery of Victoria and Richmond met at Black River on the 18th October for the visitation of the congregation and other business.

An examination into the affairs of the congregation showed that there has been cheering progress since the settlement of the Rev. D. McDougall, who was called there from Cow Bay about two years since, and who was the first minister settled among them for many years.

There are four churches in the congregation, that at Black River near West Bay being the principal one.

One of the four, at River Inhabitants, though built some years since, has, owing to some misunderstanding, not been used but is to be opened for divine worship on Sabbath, 13th inst.

#### Presbytery of Miramichi.

##### AN INTERESTING MEETING AT BATHURST

The Presbytery of Miramichi holds four stated meetings in the course of the year, usually on the following dates: first Tuesday of February, first Tuesday of April, first Tuesday of August, last Tuesday of October. This last meeting was held this year in Bathurst, in accordance with the custom long prevalent of meeting once in the year at least in the Northern section of the Presbytery's bounds. There was a smaller attendance of members of Presbytery than usual. But the work that was gone through that day was considerable.

##### THE LITERARY INSTITUTE.

First, at 9 o'clock in the morning, sundry of the members of Presbytery met for the purpose of holding a stated meeting of the "Literary and Theological Institute." This Institute was established between three and four years ago, for the purpose of affording an opportunity to all ministers and Missionaries within the bounds of the Presbytery of keeping up their studies in the sacred languages and in Biblical criticism, and also of reading and discussing essays on theological subjects.

The chief draw-back hitherto has been

want of time, for, on account of the scattered nature of the charges in the Presbytery, it is only when Presbytery meets that a sufficient number of ministers can be got together, and then their church work is apt to absorb all their available time. Until recently, this Presbytery used to meet at 10 A. M., but it was agreed to commence at 11, for the purpose mainly of giving a better chance to the "Institute." So at the meeting in Bathurst, two hours were taken up in this way. And, though not so much work was gone through as sometimes on past occasions, the hour slipped away pleasantly and left some profit behind it.

The main subject was, the reading of a paper by Rev. Wm. McCarter on "The Scripture Doctrine of Holiness." Three points were discriminated, illustrated and dwelt upon in the essay, absolute sanctification, to be predicted of the legally justified; Christian perfection in the religious life of the regenerate, and holiness as a moral quality. A discussion by the members followed, in which general approbation of the arguments and views set forth in the paper, along with occasional dissent on specified points, was expressed. A vote of thanks was presented to the Essayist. It was agreed that next Institute should meet in Douglastown, first Tuesday of February, at 9 A. M. A chapter of Ephesians in Greek and one of the Psalms in Hebrew, were appointed to be read, also it was agreed that a short introduction on the authorship to the Ephesians should, from paper or verbally, be presented for discussion, this introduction or "prolegomena" being left to Rev. Wm. McKenzie to prepare. Whereupon the meeting was dismissed with the benediction.

##### THE BUSINESS MEETING.

And then the Presbytery met, or the members constituted again as a Presbytery, which ever you like to put it. At any rate it was a very harmonious and pleasant meeting. A good deal of routine work was disposed of, and in shorter time than usual. Reports from the mission stations were given in and received.

The necessities of the Restigouche district, and the practicability of supplying the lumber camps on the various rivers were discussed. This Presbytery is really throwing itself actively into mission work. It was agreed to hold Presbyterial visitations in eight congregations in the course of the winter, and for this work committees were appointed. Collections are to be taken up, and these,