

Mr. Nelson employed during the winter in P. E. Island, Mr. S. Lawson in St. Stephen, and Mr. H. Archibald in Southampton and Caver Hill, and adjoining settlements on the St. John River, with Mr. Chase from Edinburgh, now prepared to deliver his trials, make up ten labourers ready to go forth and to sow the good seed of the incorruptible word.

THEOLOGICAL STUDENTS.

We are persuaded that the church has also derived very decided benefit during the year past from the second class of labourers, our students of theology, who have been, and still are, employed in ministering to the destitute as catechists and evangelists. They have been and are now chiefly employed in the supply of the Eastern shore, more especially between the congregations of Messrs. Waddell and McCurdy, of Bedford, Waverley, Mount Uniacke and Wine Harbour, the three places last named being gold districts; also of West Bay, Cape North and Gabarus in Cape Breton, and of Baillie in the Presbytery of St. Stephen's.

At present there are six thus employed by the Presbyteries of Halifax, Pictou, Cape Breton, Victoria and Richmond, and St. Stephen; and of some of the places supplied during the past season, it might be truly said that they were the dark places of the land. In some localities on the Eastern shore more especially, the prevalent ignorance of divine truth, and of the way of salvation through the cross of Christ, the disregard of the Lord's day, and similar marks of heathenism, led the young evangelist in sorrow to say, "Surely the fear of God is not in this place."

GÆLIC CATECHISTS.

There are also nine Gælic catechists in the island of Cape Breton, who visit the sick with reading of the scriptures and prayer, hold readings and prayer meetings either in places where there is no minister, or from which the minister is absent. The places at which the Gælic catechists are placed are Cow Bay, Boularderie, Gabarus, Cape North, St. Ann's, Loch Lomond, Leitch's Creek, River Deny's and Malagawatch. We desiderate a fuller report of

their proceedings, the want of which may be supplied orally to Synod by members of the Presbyteries of Cape Breton, Victoria and Richmond.

IMPORTANCE OF THE WORK.

The Board desire to record their sense of the high importance of the work of Home Missions. If the gospel is the only message, and the spirit of the Lord the only agent, to *make new* the man, the nation and the world, then must *all* missions claim the attention of the church, as they are the hope of the world; but the missionary principle, in its bearings on *our own* cities, towns, and country, should command the first attention and hearty support of all our people.

If we are the Presbyterian Church of these Lower Provinces, our paramount duty is to carry the gospel to *all the neglected* in its inland settlements, and along its shores. If we study the example of the Prince of Preachers, we will find that He was *pre-eminently* a Home and a City Missionary. His ministry was a going over the cities, the towns, and the land of Judea. His message truly was wide as humanity itself. It was limited to no nation or tongue. It was to attract the people of all realms, but it was to begin within and work its way out, leavening as it went. The apostles began at Jerusalem, and *continued* to work in Judea, and Galilee, and Antioch, when the gospel went far beyond these limits, that they might hold what they had gained,—thus while lengthening their cords still strengthen also their stakes.

While deprecating the very idea of setting one mission against another, yet, as a Board of Home Missions, it is our imperative duty to keep the church in mind of its high obligation to see that its own kindred are within hearing of the message of salvation.

URGENT CALLS.

There are circumstances which, it appears to us, clearly indicate that the church should regard itself mainly and essentially as a *Home Missionary Church*.

One of these circumstances is, that it is in a *new* country, and evangelical labour put forth *now* will tell on its whole future history, and on all generations of its inhabi-