

OUR CONTRIBUTORS.

MIS. IONARIES RIQUIED FOR MANITOBA.

MR. EDITOR,—Allow me to direct the attention of our young ministers to the present wants of our mission work in the Presbytery of Manitoba. Nine mission fields, with about fifty stations, are just now without any services in connection with our Church. In these are found over 400 Presbyterian families. When the missionaries lately appointed arrive three of the fields will be occupied, but we have nobody for the other six. When it is remembered that Mr. Rowat, in consequence of severe family affliction, is unable to come, and that Mr. J. S. Stewart, our esteemed missionary at S. Athol, has been obliged to return to Ontario because of Mrs. Stewart's continued illness, it will be seen that we receive just two additional labourers. Other Churches get missionaries—our Church is as strong as any of them—and shall our fields go uncultivated? The districts are new and large, the settlements scattered, and the people in only moderate circumstances, but in every one of these fields we have the materials for one or more good congregations. We need young men of piety and zeal—men of physical strength and mental power—men warm of heart, clear of head, and sound of body—men who can rough it—put up with humble fare and a hard bed, and not grumble. Such men will find the people kind and hospitable; they will have the satisfaction of seeing the work growing, and be cheered with the thought that they have done something in laying the foundation of society in a new land. The longer I live here, and the more I see of the country, the more important does its future seem. A very large number of the present population belong to our Church. In the districts I lately visited more than one-half of the settlers are Presbyterians. Can we retain them? They will not willingly leave the Church of their fathers, but if we neglect them, what wonder if they join other communions. No Church ever had a finer opportunity than ours has in this new land. Can we rise equal to the occasion? Much rests with our young ministers. Who is willing for a year or two to endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ? The Sub-Committee in Toronto, of which Dr. Cochrane is Convener, will be only too glad to correspond with men suitable for the work. To day I was told that 4,000 men would be engaged in the woods east of Winnipeg this winter. Should not some one be sent to preach the Gospel to them? JAMES ROBERTSON.

Nelsonville, Manitoba, November 10th, 1881.

THE HASTINGS MISSION FIELD.

I intended at the time writing an addition to the Rev. Mr. Mitchell's interesting letters describing our trip on the Hastings Road in August last, but pressure of work prevented. More recently I noticed a generous offer of \$500 a year for five years, to be spent in mission work either there or in the Muskoka District. Whether that comes this way or no, may it stimulate others to do likewise, as the clamant needs of the entire home field are not sufficiently felt by the people of our Church.

If we claim to be the most scriptural Church, as we do, we should shew it by being the most aggressive. In a new country, with work before us, and a nucleus to begin with, should we ever beat a retreat? We do not in French Evangelization work or in the foreign field; we do in the home field. By the policy pursued (for want of funds, I grant), our cause has shrunk in the townships to the south of this, and the Mission stations around St. Paul's and St. Columba's have shrivelled up. Not only so, but application was made this spring by another body for the use of St. Columba; and one church has been built to the west of St. Paul's, and another is now building to the east of it, by a body a few years ago an entire stranger to this district, thereby drying it off too. Who is to blame for this—Presbytery, preachers or people? Iron mines especially, and gold mines also, are bringing lots of strangers in, and it is to me a cause of deep regret that, notwithstanding the population being nearly double, our membership is now not half what it was when I had to give these charges up from overwork.

Let me now shew the present state and requirements of what is called, not very correctly, the North

Hastings Group, that are allowed every winter, for want of means and men, to lie comparatively fallow. And shall they be allowed to shrivel up also? Some of the elders do not possess clothes enough to make a proper appearance in our Church Courts, and have not money enough to pay the expenses that would be incurred, yet they give in their poverty from \$10 to \$20 a year for the fragmentary services they receive.

I.—THANET AND THE RIDGE.

As the Ridge is the more important station, it may be considered the central one. It is thirty-six miles north of Madoc and six miles west of the Hastings Road. The soil around it is very good, but very limited in extent. By way of compensation, within a few miles both of it and Thanet there are very valuable deposits of iron ore. The owners of two of them value these at \$100,000 each. It is a pity that outside companies are the owners, because no supply was sent to the people this summer. Thanet church was occupied by another body, and application was also made for the Ridge church. The soil is very rocky, the population is sparse and poor, but liberal for their means. Their log churches may be said to be built by themselves, and if help is needed anywhere it is needed here.

STATIONS.	FAMILIES.	COMMUNICANTS.	DISTANCE IN MILES.	CHURCHES.	TOWNSHIPS.
The Ridge .....	18	38	.....	.....	Wollaston and Lake.
Nugent .....	3	3	7 N.	.....	.....
Thanet .....	12	22	7 E.	.....	Limerick.
Beaver Creek .....	3	3	12 S. E.	.....	Tudor.
Jordan .....	7	4	18 S. E.	.....	.....
Total .....	43	70	.....	.....	.....

The distance between Nugent and the Jordan is twenty-five miles. There is no church of any other name in these townships as yet save our own. Less than one ordained missionary should not be thought of, and a third church should be put up in Nugent, where there are forty Protestant families.

II.—L'AMABLE.

STATIONS.	FAMILIES.	COMMUNICANTS.	DISTANCE IN MILES.	CHURCHES.	TOWNSHIPS.
L'Amable .....	17	26	.....	.....	Faraday and Dangannon.
Bancroft .....	21	30	5 N.	.....	.....
Moore Settlement .....	10	6	12 N.	.....	.....
Bronson .....	4	3	22 N. E.	.....	.....
Kenton .....	13	13	22 S. E.	.....	.....
Smith .....	9	9	22 S. E.	.....	.....
Orr .....	12	13	22 S. E.	.....	.....
Total .....	101	72	.....	.....	.....

L'Amable is forty-six miles north of Madoc. The soil for miles around the central station is superior, and the people are generally intelligent; the water power is considerable, and valuable iron deposits have been found around Bancroft. There is one handsome, roomy church in L'Amable, and one should be built at Bancroft with the least possible delay. There is only one church of another denomination in the entire field, and that need never have been had our Church been more alive. The people are able enough, if they only thought it, to call a minister. The place is sure to develop into an important centre at a very early day. What more desirable field could a young man, full of the spirit of his Master, want?

III.—CARLOW AND MAYO.

STATIONS.	FAMILIES.	COMMUNICANTS.	DISTANCE IN MILES.	CHURCHES.	TOWNSHIPS.
Carlow .....	66	90	.....	.....	.....
Dod's Corners .....	25	14	10	.....	.....
Long Lake Settlement .....	13	20	17	.....	.....
Total .....	100	124	.....	.....	.....

Carlow is twenty-one miles north east of L'Amable, or seventy miles from Madoc. For miles around the church the soil is rich, and easily worked as the garden of Eden. Such trees! such wheat! such oats! Mayo is more of a rolling country, but has much good land in it. The people are anxious for an immediate settlement. Lumbering is carried on in both townships in the winter season. One church should

be built as soon as possible at Dod's Corners. Two or three other stations should be formed in the regions beyond. It would not pay to have an ordained missionary for the whole field. A minister should be settled in Carlow with the least possible delay, and a missionary is needed for Mayo. As yet no other church is erected, or even spoken of. At Carlow the attendance on Sabbath is 200; the Sabbath school numbers eighty-five. At Dod's Corners the attendance is 100; the Sabbath school, forty-five; and at Long Lake (south) the attendance is fifty, and the Sabbath school twenty-five.

IV.—MAYNOOTH

is over twenty-four miles north of L'Amable, or seventy miles north of Madoc. The Roman Catholics, as the name implies, at one time almost wholly possessed the region. They are thinning out some now. They have a church, but the signs of ecclesiastical prosperity about it are not very apparent. It is confessedly difficult to work this extensive district, and our missionaries have as yet met with poor success. It may be thus divided:

STATIONS.	FAMILIES.	NUMBERS.	DISTANCE IN MILES.	CHURCHES.	TOWNSHIPS.
Maynooth .....	18	19	.....	.....	Herscell.
L'v. gitione .....	3	4	7 N.	.....	McLure.
Harcourt .....	11	3	13 W.	.....	Wicklow.
Bartlet Settlement .....	17	.....	10 S. E.	.....	Harcourt.
Monteagle Valley .....	20	.....	15 S. E.	.....	Monteagle.
Little Carlow .....	11	.....	18 E.	.....	.....
Total .....	83	26	.....	.....	.....

Two churches ought to be erected at once—the one in Maynooth, and the other in Monteagle Valley. There is a very considerable amount of good land in these townships, but our Presbyterianism is not so sturdy as we would like to see it. Lumbering is extensively carried on during the winter months. In these four groups of stations there are comprised twenty-one stations, 337 families, 322 communicants, and the material for Sabbath schools is over 500. There are four churches built, or on the way, and five that ought to be built immediately. The evidence that the Lord has given us the whole region to cultivate for Him is apparent. The majority is ours, and the rest is for the gathering. I see that our Presbytery has authorized Dr. Smith to secure one ordained missionary for the twelve townships. It has tried this twice before and failed; it will fail again. This is playing at Home Mission work merely. The people are sick at heart in waiting these many years to have pastors settled among them, and they sometimes ask me how is it that so much money is raised for French Evangelization and for Foreign Missions, and so little for Home Missions. I tell them I cannot say, though the proportion for these objects compared with this is as \$1 is to five cents; or a Coolie or Chinese soul is worth twenty times that of a white man. I do not complain of these schemes getting too much, but I do complain of this scheme getting too little. It delights me to notice that Kingston Presbytery gives for the schemes of the Church a far larger percentage than any other Presbytery. I do not think it gives too much, and I do not believe in the levelling down process, but in the levelling up, that there may be something like equality throughout the entire body. The Lord arouse our people as they have never been aroused before to the vastness and the needs of this Home Mission work of ours! MADOC.

THE NEW HYMN AND TUNE BOOK

MR. EDITOR,—In your issue of last week, "Precursor" very properly puts in a strong protest against the new Hymnal with music being issued with uncut leaves. That plan has been tried already by more than one denomination in Canada and the States, and in every case proved a complete failure. I at one time joined the choir of a congregation of the Methodist Episcopal Church in one of our western counties, where an uncut Hymnal had been introduced. The choir faithfully tried to learn all the tunes in the book. Six months' persevering effort enabled them to stagger through the tune under any given hymn. About the same time the last brave singer in the congregation "stopped short, never to sing again" while that state of affairs lasted. The attempt to sing the tune written under each hymn was abandoned, and when the hymn on page 24 was announced, our