

in the depth of the forest, far from the companionship and comforts of home. An unfavourable spring may render it impossible to get the result of his winter's work to market, or low prices may bankrupt his employer, in either of which cases the labourer must go without his pay. In some of the New Brunswick congregations of our church there are few of the able-bodied men at home during the winter months. In summer, too, they are frequently absent looking after the products of last winter's toil, or making preparations for the next. These things do not fail to hinder the missionary in his work. But these evils will eventually disappear as the people, or a large majority of them, turn their attention to more certain and stable branches of industry. It is but just to say in this connection, that men who are largely engaged in lumbering and shipbuilding pursuits, have, in numerous instances, shown the most praiseworthy solicitation for the spiritual welfare of their employees and their families, and our own church can boast of men so situated who contribute most liberally for the support of the Gospel, and without whose aid ordinances could not be maintained in the districts in which they reside.

MINISTERIAL SUPPORT.

Another of the chief difficulties of the New Brunswick field lies in the melancholy inadequacy of ministerial support. Basing our calculations upon the statistical tables of 1854, we have taken some pains to ascertain the figures which we submit, with the earnest hope that our readers everywhere, and especially in New Brunswick, may study them carefully. The aggregate receipts of eighteen ministers in 1834, were \$7680.77. This amount will yield an average of \$426 to each minister. But of this aggregate sum the four St. John ministers and the minister of Richibucto received \$4080. This leaves \$3600.77 to be divided among the thirteen remaining ministers in the body, which will yield an average of about \$277,—a sum but little, if at all, above the starving point. These figures speak for themselves. We hope there is much improvement since 1864, but we are not advised of any great improvement having been made. It is sad to think of men of superior attainments and refined habits thus compelled to live on a pittance which scarcely raises them above the reach of want. The cause of Presbyterianism cannot make much progress in New Brunswick while this state of things is allowed to continue. The Head of the Church will deal sparingly with those who thus deal sparingly with his servants. "Ye have sown much and it came to little." "There is that withholdeth more than is meet, and it tendeth to poverty."

We find that in those congregation whose ministers are so inadequately paid, the average amount contributed is only \$3.33 and we think that here is to be found the solution of the difficulty. This average is much lower than the contributions of many of the poorer congregations in Nova Scotia and P. E. Island. How can this average be raised, if possible, doubled? The answer comes readily enough. The Presbyteries must do it. But here is the difficulty. The Presbyteries are small, and their constituent members far separated from each other. They cannot often meet, and when they do meet they find it difficult to visit all the sections of a widely scattered congregation, and even one or two visitations cannot be expected to move the people at once to a proper performance of their duty in respect to ministerial support. Would it not be well to have all our congregations visited by an agent appointed for that purpose by Synod, who would assist the more willing among the people to attain a higher degree of organization, and who would stir all our people to greater liberality in dealing with the cause of Christ? In every section of our church the evil is felt—in New Brunswick it is felt somewhat more severely than elsewhere. Whatever might be thought of the suggestion we have ventured to offer, we know that in too many cases the minister is left to organize machinery for raising money in his congregation as best he can: and we know also that he is the man who labours under the most formidable disadvantages in attempting such a task. Some vigorous means should be adopted without delay. In different sections of our field, and especially in New Brunswick, men of zeal, and piety, and ability, are suffering for want of comforts which it is unquestionably the duty of the church to furnish. Some have become disheartened and have left the field, and unless aid comes others must necessarily follow.

It is particularly gratifying to learn of the acceptableness of the young men who have served in the New Brunswick Home Mission field. They have fully sustained the reputation of our educational institutions, and deepened the conviction, that a native ministry, if properly trained, possesses special fitness for the wants of our colonial field.

Our Foreign Missions.

Latert from the New Hebrides.

Letters have been received from Aneitem dated the 15th December. The *Dayspring* had returned from Australia. The *John*