

This year, as well as the two previous ones, fishing has been a great failure. The harvest, too, was rather backward, especially in oats, which may be called a total failure.

The sects already mentioned were each represented in these parts since the first settlements, but none were important enough to have settled charges except the Roman Catholic and the Presbyterian. Consequently there are two large Roman Catholic parishes and one Presbyterian.

In 1860, Rev. D. Sutherland, of Gabarus, C.B., was ordained first minister of the Presbyterian congregation. After his leaving there was a long vacancy, during which students laboured in the summer, some of whom are Revs. Messrs. Grant, Cow Bay; Murray, Sydney, and Gunn, Boston. Then, in 1873, Rev. Peter Clark was ordained minister and remained in charge until his death, in 1887. The present minister was inducted in August last, he having laboured as ordained missionary for some time previous.

The mixture of race and creed and the great distance between the different sections make this charge partake more of a missionary than a pastoral character. Certainly it has the complete organization of a regular pastoral charge, to wit, a session, a board of managers, a trusteeship, &c. The minister, however, has to be often away for days at a time, and sometimes for more than a week, and has to visit frequently, especially the indifferent. His frequent visits to outlying districts and corners are very fatiguing, especially in winter, but there is a world of improvement since the early pioneers. The late Revs. Messrs. Farquharson and Gunn visited these parts, they having often to wend their way through pathless forests.

I am informed that the people have improved in very many ways since the last twenty years. In civility, morality, church-going, Sabbath-keeping, and in some other virtues they are generally exemplary. These are fruits of the gospel, and our congregation, by its preaching, teaching and discipline, exerted the greatest influence in their production. These are matters of gratitude and thankfulness, but there are also professing Christians in every quarter, the fruits of saving grace, of whom a goodly few belong to us.

There is much land to be possessed yet. I have given only the bright side. There are careless ones and there are unconverted ones. The congregation at large requires to take a deeper interest in the monetary affairs of the church. There is plenty work and room, not only for the minister, but for every elder, and every Christian should be an active worker in the Lord's vineyard. If a few active, consistent, prudent Christians, especially thorough-going Presbyterians, were planted among Roman Catholics, or among any ungodly people, they would tell immensely on their neighbours.

In my many long journeys my heart is cheered and my burden is made light by the kindness, hospitality, and ready accommodation which I receive in every quarter. Our people would consider it mean to be otherwise than kind and hospitable. Moreover, they attend to the wants of the mind. They are intelligent and some of them pretty well educated. Almost every family gets a newspaper, some get two or three. Besides there are some houses furnished with many books of different descriptions. And I must not forget to say that they get about 80 *Presbyterian Records*, in which they see the doings, the needs and the claims of the Church. I see some of the people preserve them after they read them. Our oldest elder, a godly old man, said to me regarding the *Record*, "This is the paper I like best; I see how the Gospel progresses in all the world." All that shows that the minister in his journeys can refresh his mind with a variety of mental pubulum.

I must stop now, having given an idea of the situation and the character of this congregation. E. M.

Montreal Religious Anniversaries.

THESE historic meetings held during the last week in January, passed off this year with much of the old-time prestige, filling the spacious new St. James Methodist church on some of the evenings to its utmost capacity. The thirty-ninth anniversary of the institution of the YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION was the first of the series, at which standing room could scarcely be found for the great congregation. Mr. Kingman, the president of the Association, introduced the proceedings by sketching the growth of the society. Referring to the various branches of work carried on in the interests of the young men of the city, it was explained that it began forty years ago on purely religious lines, in the second decade more of the social element was introduced, in the third decade there was added the educational, and now they were about to enter on possession of their splendid new premises where, besides these other departments, they would have ample facilities for cultivating "muscular Christianity" in a well-appointed gymnasium. It was stated that during the past year 120,000 visitors had found their way into the Association building, many of whom could testify to the benefit they received from the warm grasp of a friendly hand and the kindly