

and fifty inhabitants, it was said,—they had not more than five copies of the Scriptures amongst them. In Annapolis County, a clergyman told me he had imported a considerable number of Bibles and Testaments, which were readily sold, and had ordered more; not knowing that a Branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society was so soon to have its depot there. And in the more remote settlements of other Counties, the same destitution prevails. But in all the principal places, as also along the sea-board, and the shores of navigable rivers, almost every house is supplied with Bibles and Testaments. To a further enquiry into this subject, the attention of the office-bearers of the several Branches was especially directed, both at our meetings and by letters since; in which I particularly requested some estimate to be made of the probable number of copies required to meet the existing deficiency. But no returns have yet been made, except in a few instances, in which but little destitution could be found.

In my second tour, through the Eastern parts of the Province, where the travelling was extremely difficult and slow, the bridges having been mostly swept away by a terrible flood which preceded me—and there being no houses of entertainment, I was frequently thrown upon the indiscriminate, but kind hospitalities of the settlers; and was glad to find in every household, that a Bible or Testament was used by each member, in their morning and evening family devotions, in which, under my circumstances, it seemed a hallowed privilege to join. And in some of the more recently-formed settlements of Cape Breton, “far in the wilds unknown to public view,” where as yet no manse had reared its head to give life and character to the scene, nor “sound of the church-going bell,” had been heard to gladden and break the stillness of the sabbath morn, these humble settlers had their own Bibles, and their own social and family worship, which gave to the wilderness, in the eyes of a passing stranger, an interest and a loveliness that hung a charm upon his memory, not to be torn off by the ruggedness of the pathway which led him to more favoured climes.

There are indeed many places, both in Nova Scotia proper, and Cape Breton, where books in general are much needed, and where protestant settlers are very destitute of the sacred Scriptures; but only to a few of these have I as yet had access; nor can I form any proper estimate of the number of persons so circumstanced, till those friends who have promised, shall have furnished me with the means. But these places are happily “few and far between” as compared with earlier times and other lands. For in addition to the thousands of copies issued from the depositories of the British and Foreign Bible Society, thousands more have been distributed, both by Clergymen and laymen, from those of the “Christian Knowledge” Society, Diocesan Societies, Naval and Military Bible Society, Edinburgh Bible Society, Coldstream Bible Society, and other sources, which are constantly pouring out their streams to water and fertilize the Province. But it is to be lamented that there is not that sympathy amongst the masses of Society, for other lands more destitute, which

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