

Ghost has made overseers, to speak unto the people that they go forward. In such matters, the people seldom take precedence of the ministry, and when they do so, necessity must be great, or danger imminent. In such cases, results may astonish, but wanting that guiding influence appointed by Christ, benefits are too often temporary and the evils of reaction great. Hence the necessity, both as matter of duty and interest, that the ministry should lead, and not be compelled, reluctantly, to follow. Position, character, and usefulness depend in a great measure upon their taking precedence, because ministerial indifference or opposition, while retarding schemes of general improvement, find their appropriate fruits in pervading christian neglect.

In the general objects of the Board, the Report and returns of the past year manifest gratifying improvement, both in the amount of labor performed, and in proportion to means, the readiness of stations to remunerate the laborer. In this latter particular, there has been a very marked change for the better.

[The Report then refers to the Licensure of Messrs. George Clarke, James Thompson, Henry Crawford, and John McLeod; the reception of the Rev. Daniel McCurdy, and the removal from the roll of Probationers, by settlement, of Messrs. A. L. Wylie, and James Byers, and proceeds.]

The sphere of labor during the year, embraced existing vacancies, and together with stations heretofore occupied, such other stations, as calls for the gospel and resources at command, enabled Presbyteries to occupy. These extend throughout the Province, Cape Breton, P. E. Island, and to a limited extent, New Brunswick; and your Board are satisfied from the experience of the past, that as the operations of the Church become better known, new claims will arise, and christian benevolence will be commensurate with the demand.

After a protracted mission to P. E. Island, the Rev. James Byers visited different parts of New Brunswick, where his labors were highly acceptable; but, to a certain extent, his labors were unproductive of direct results, from the fact, that his services were, necessarily, given to localities connected with other bodies: a course which existing ecclesiastical relations render undesirable, excepting in cases where there is no rea-

sonable prospect of supply from the bodies with which such stations are formally connected. In some places, he found families warmly attached to the Synod, and these, though comparatively few in number, it is both desirable and dutiful not to overlook or forget.

From Messrs. H. Crawford and J. McLeod, reports of services throughout the winter, chiefly in vacancies, have been transmitted by the Phy. of P. E. Island, and your Board would remark, that from the extent of their labor, as well as from the manner in which it is noticed by the Phy., there is presented strong ground of confidence in the Synod's arrangement for providing a Native Ministry. This last remark is true in general.

In the Phy. of Truro, the missionary work has been extensively prosecuted, by most of the Synod's Probationers.

Shortly after being licensed, Mr James Thompson proceeded to Harvey, New Brunswick, a station formerly occupied by Rev. D. McCurdy. The church there consists of about 70 families, 3 Elders, and 100 communicants; and, judging from Mr Thompson's report, will form a valuable accession to the body. A new church had been erected, and the people anticipate that at no distant day they will be able to maintain a Pastor comfortably. Perhaps, with aid, they might do so now.\* This settlement forms a position, from which, were it once able to sustain a pastor, active missionary operations might be conducted. There are settlements at no great distance, where service might be given, and stations erected; and, under the impetus of anticipated public improvements, these would assuredly increase.

The Rev. D. McCurdy is now laboring in Harvey and adjacencies. Urgent necessity existing in Harvey for the presence of an ordained missionary, and the arrival of Mr McCurdy being uncertain, the Phy. of Truro, in conjunction with the Board, obtained the services of the Rev. George Christie, who proceeded to Harvey for a fortnight, and administered ordinances there. His report has not yet been received by the Board.

Mr George Clarke is now laboring in

\* By information recently received, this congregation is now prepared to call a Pastor and offer a salary of one hundred pounds.