

THE
CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTOR.

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" THAT THE SOUL BE WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE, IT IS NOT GOOD."—PROV. XIX. 2.  
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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE REV. JOHN MITCHELL,
LATE OF RIVER JOHN.

ARTICLE II.

In our former article, we gave short sketches of the parentage and birth of Mr Mitchell—of his conversion—of his call to the ministry—and of his missionary labours. We now proceed to review the few remaining facts of his history, what have come to our knowledge.

V. HIS TOUR THROUGH NOVA SCOTIA AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

No particular reasons are assigned either in his journals or letters why he commenced these tours. It is not stated that it was of his own suggestion; nor is it said that it was at the request of the London Missionary Society's Committee. But all things considered, we think it highly probable, it was at the request of the Committee. The tours which he took were extensive and the labours in which he engaged were various, arduous, and fatiguing. From notes appended to several memoranda in his journal, we are led to suppose that one of his principal objects was, to point out stations to the London Committee, where they might settle missionaries, or perhaps erect Churches. The minuteness with which he chronicles the number of the population in each settlement, and distinguishes Protestants from Catholics, corroborates this opinion: The places which he visited are familiar to many of us, and his remarks respecting some of them may be interesting. We shall select a very few of these, by way of specimen, as we follow him in his journeyings.

First Tour. Mr M. began his first tour on May 29th, and ended it on August 31st 1803—extending over a period of about 4 months. During that time he visited 27 settlements, travelling sometimes in a boat, sometimes on horseback, and sometimes on foot. One night his bed was a bearskin on the shore, and another he slept on the bare sands. The Gut of Canso, Antigonishe, Merigomishe, Pictou Harbour, River John, Tatmagouche, River Philip, Amherst, Westmoreland, Shediac, Miramichi, Tracadie and Newcastle, were some of the principal places which he visited. He preached about one hundred sermons, and baptised a considerable number of children. Surely we may hope that through his instrumentality, not a little of