

One Saturday afternoon I visited a small settlement comprising thirteen families. I found many of them in a state of physical destitution. I visited nearly all the families that afternoon, conversed, read, and prayed with them, and distributed small books and tracts gratuitously. On Sabbath afternoon, in company with the friend I was stopping with, I visited a family I had not found the day previous, in which one of the inmates, a girl of sixteen, was prostrated on a bed of sickness. I found quite a number of the neighbors assembled, they having called to see the invalid. I embraced the opportunity at once of addressing all present on the subject of personal religion. Marked attention was given while I spoke of the freeness and fullness of the great salvation, and the willingness of the Saviour to save the chief of sinners, urging upon them to accept without delay the offers of mercy. Some present seemed to feel the force of the truths presented. I asked for a Bible and found there was none in the house. I read from a small copy of the New Testament which I carried with me, and after making a few comments thereon engaged in prayer. I then approached the bedside of the sick girl, who was apparently on the verge of eternity. While I conversed with her she wept profusely. I found her extremely ignorant. She could not read, and knew but little of the way of salvation. I endeavored to explain to her the way of justification through a crucified and risen Saviour, and urged her to come to Jesus.

I felt thankful that in the Providence of God, I was permitted to visit this family, and my earnest prayer to God was that my effort to lead this poor girl to the Saviour of sinners might be successful. The parents thanked me with tears in their eyes for visiting them. It was the first visit of the kind they had ever received.

I visited a new settlement, where I found the inhabitants in indigent circumstances and quite destitute of religious books. They told me that during their eight years residence in the place they had never received a visit from a minister of the Gospel. As they were a good distance from a place of worship, they seldom attended—some of them not at all. My visit to them was exceedingly acceptable, and I trust, profitable to myself. I felt when going from house to house, warning the careless, instructing the ignorant, and encouraging the feeble Christian, that the work was truly blessed. I read, prayed, and conversed with the families, and supplied every one of them, by sale or grant, with good books. They thanked me kindly for visiting them, and invited me to come again."

It will be seen from these extracts that the work of this Society is not a mere bookselling operation, undertaken or prosecuted for pecuniary gain. While it aims to supply families and Sabbath Schools throughout the land, with a pure, religious literature at a low price, its great object and aim are to seek those living without the Gospel, and in a spirit of Christian love and benevolence, carry to them the message of salvation in the works of Baxter, Bunyan, Doddridge, Venn, and other kindred authors. Striving by words of earnest counsel and exhortation, by reading the Scriptures and prayer, to lead them to seek an interest in the Saviour.

During the year, twelve Colporteurs have been employed in this Province. A large portion of the more needy parts of it has been explored. Many families hitherto without a copy of the Word of God have been supplied, the officers of the Bible Societies kindly furnishing copies of the Scriptures for that purpose. Many without any religious reading have had a suitable volume presented to them. Prayer has been offered at many a fireside for the first time. Tens of thou-

sands of tracts full of soul-saving truth have been distributed. Thus this Society co-operates with the ordained ministry, and is an important auxiliary in the work of *Home evangelization*. Will it not commend itself to all Christians and philanthropists? A. McBEAN.

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THE CHURCH IN NOVA SCOTIA.

Truro and Adjacent Stations.

SESSION HOUSE, ST. MATTHEW'S, }
Halifax, Feb. 7th, 1866. }

Dear Sir,—The enclosed, received since the November meeting of this Presbytery, was read to-day at the quarterly meeting of the Court, and ordered to be sent to the *Monthly Record* for publication.

This statement was drawn out by Rev. Mr. Philip previous to his demitting the charge of the congregation at Truro.

I am yours truly,
C. McDONALD,
Clerk to Presbytery pro temp.

MEMORANDUM FOR PRESBYTERY OF HALIFAX.

It may be stated that the amount of debt on the building, which two years ago was £315 2s. 1d., is now reduced to £160 0s. 3d. The whole sum is due to two individual members of the Church.

The amount paid by the people of Truro, Salmon River, and the McLeod branch of North River, towards salary, has been £80 currency per annum. The McCallum branch has contributed, for the services given there, £7 10s., making the average amount of salary received from the people during the two-and-a-half years of my ministry, £82 10s.

During the last twelve months, an officer has been paid £10 per annum for ringing the bell, keeping the Church clean, supplying fire wood, &c. All this was formerly done, but very inefficiently, for £5. The Church has, within the same period, been supplied with Lamps, which it entirely wanted before.

The financial state of the congregation may therefore be said to be satisfactory.

I understand that the people bind themselves to pay £80 per annum towards salary to the minister who may be sent to them, but they hope to be able to raise that amount to £90, provided matters proceed as favorably as they expect. The congregation are zealous and hopeful, and will, I am confident, do their best. Owing to the work connected with the Railway near Salmon River, a number of new residents has been brought to that neighborhood, and Mr. McLean, our Elder there, is of opinion that £25 per annum may soon be paid for the monthly services at that station. The sum hitherto contributed has been £20. This station, although distant from Truro 14 miles, is one of great importance, and must yearly become more so. The nearest place of worship from the point where I have been accustomed to conduct divine service, is about 8 miles distant. The Salmon River station has, during these two-and-a-half years, been solely occupied by us.

At the present moment, I think it is extremely desirable to have regular services kept up at Truro and the stations connected with it. Several parties not formerly connected with the Church, have, within the last two years, purchased or rented pews, in the hope of receiving regular ministrations, and it would be dangerous to weaken the confidence of the people in the stability of the Church. WM. M. PHILIP.

Truro, 14th Nov., 1865.