

Presbytery of Pictou

At a meeting of this Presbytery held at New Glasgow, on the 21st of last month, for the despatch of business, the Rev. James Christie, now officiating as a Missionary within the bounds, was appointed to preach at Pugwash on the 26th of April, and on the 3d, 10th, and 17th May; at River John on the 24th, and at Salt Springs on the 31st of May, at Rogers' Hill on the 7th, at Garelloch on the 14th, at Cape John on the 21st, and at West Branch, River John, on the 28th of June, and at Earleton on the 5th of July.

[For the Monthly Record]

MY DEAR SIR,—

In compliance with your request I now transmit you a few thoughts suggested by my visit to Musquodoboit.

My journey to Musquodoboit was performed in March, at a most inclement season. It was immediately after a thaw, when the roads were almost impassable, and shortly after the bridges had been swept away by a flood. In consequence of this, great difficulty was experienced in travelling to the different settlements—the only mode of conveyance across the rivers being either partially on broken ice and rafts, or in canoes—neither of which I found so comfortable as a railway carriage.

These and other difficulties arising from the proper discharge of duty in such a widely scattered district, were calculated in some measure to cool the ardor of the stoutest heart. But if ever such a thought arose, it was only of short duration. It entirely disappeared before the enthusiastic welcome I received. For, the good folks of Musquodoboit not only hailed me with open arms, but during my residence among them seemed to vie with each other, who could show me the greatest kindness and attention. And really some such similar demonstration is necessary to animate and encourage. For, when we consider on the one hand the difficulty of travelling, and the wildness of the country; and on the other, the coldness and deadness of the human heart to religious matters; when we consider a missionary—a stranger going to a strange people—going not to flatter their pride and their prejudices, but to reprove, rebuke and exhort,—to tell men their faults, and to point out the way to heaven, it is easy to see that he does need something to prevent him falling into despondency and despair. This encouragement I met with in Musquodoboit, and was exceedingly refreshed thereby.

On the first Sabbath after my arrival, I officiated in the school-room in the Little River Settlement to a large and attentive audience. During the following week I preached twice in private houses—on Wednesday in the neighbourhood of the Middle Settlement, and on Saturday in a house connected with Gay's River Settlement. On the following day—Sabbath—I preached in

the Chapel at Meagher's Grant. And it was truly gratifying to see the large number that assembled, and the devotion with which they listened to the word of life. What a reproof to those who have the gospel brought to their doors, but spurn its gracious offers!

In none of these districts has there ever been a settled minister of the Church of Scotland. Repeated applications have been made for a Missionary, but hitherto they have not succeeded. So frequently, indeed, have they been disappointed, and so much has the ground been canvassed by other denominations, that some have become lukewarm, while others have connected themselves with different communions. And had it not been for the influence and energy of a few devoted friends, we would scarcely have had a single member belonging to our Church: and even now, though several of our Missionaries have lately visited them, unless some provision is rapidly made, those who love our Zion may leave her and seek the means of grace elsewhere, which we have denied them. Vigorous efforts, I understand, are now being made to obtain the services of a stated pastor, and a considerable sum has been subscribed toward his support. The inhabitants of Musquodoboit are both able and willing to pay for the gospel. May the Lord send them speedily a pastor after his own heart.—*Communicated by Rev. Thomas Jardine.*

New Presbyterian Church at Moncton.

We have to congratulate the Rev. William Murray, of Moncton, and the members of his congregation, on the success which has attended their united, strenuous and persevering exertions to raise funds for the erection of their new Church. Compelled from the smallness of their number, and other circumstances, to look around them for assistance, they have applied to friends at a distance in different directions, and have always met with a friendly welcome; everywhere their claims have been admitted and their requests complied with. At St. John and Halifax, at Miramichi and Richibucto, at Pictou and Wallace, and at other places in the Colonies which Mr. Murray has visited, he has always met with a kind reception and obtained liberal contributions. In the mother country also, where the circumstances of the Presbyterians of Moncton have been made known, as at Melrose and Galashiels, funds for the building have been promptly and liberally collected. It is wonderful how much a few determined and energetic individuals will accomplish when they set about their work in true earnest. Our Presbyterian brethren at Moncton are unwilling to believe that the liberality of their friends is exhausted. They have not been soliciting assistance from others without making efforts at home, between £200 and £300 having been raised among the members of the congregation at Moncton and considerable sums in the neighbourhood. They have also lately received an additional proof of the sympathy and liberality of our church in this colony in another donation transmitted from Pictou. In letters lately received from Mr. Murray, he gratefully acknowledges the receipt, through the Rev. Allan Pollock, of New Glasgow, of the sum of £112s. 1d. contributed towards the

erection of his Church by the congregation of Salt Springs and Garelloch, under the pastoral charge of the Rev. Mr. McLean. He also mentions that the bazaar which was intended to be held at Moncton, for the erection of the Church in the month of June, has been postponed to sometime in the autumn, of which due notice will be given. In the meantime he informs us that articles furnished for the bazaar have been transmitted to Mrs. James Thomson, at Harlow, or to Mrs. Herdman, in Pictou, who have kindly agreed to take charge of them and convey them to Moncton. Contributions from all well-wishers for this laudable object will be thankfully received, and it is requested that the names of the contributors should accompany the articles which they may be pleased to prepare and transmit to the Bazaar. We shall be most happy to publish in our pages any information which Mr. Murray and his friends may think proper to send us in aid of their exertions, and under the direction and superintendence of such active and persevering managers we can not for one moment doubt of the undertaking being crowned with complete success.

Missions to Seamen Afloat.

There is a much greater amount of active benevolence in the country than can be measured by the sums given through the channel of churches and church collectors. A large-hearted and liberal-handed Christian charity is found to pervade circles in which it was by no means usual to find it in former times (say half a century ago, or more). It is gratifying to see that it is Christian principle that regulates a large proportion of that benevolence—and not a mere aesthetic zeal. Private Christians, especially in the Church of England, find that they can associate themselves together for charitable purposes—and obtain various facilities for the carrying out of their plans, after a manner that would be next to impossible if they were to wait for the general assent of the Church or its universal co-operation. We rejoice to hear of the formation of a new society, which is most ingeniously adapted to the circumstances of those for whose good it has been founded. While, in the prayers of the sanctuary, we still remember "those who are exposed to danger on the stormy ocean," it will be our duty to wish all success to plans like those here described.

A public meeting for promoting these missions at home and abroad, was held last month at Wills's Rooms, under the presidency of the Earl of Shaftesbury. The noble chairman, in his address, explained the objects of this newly-formed society, which was to make provision for the spiritual welfare of our seamen at home, and more especially abroad, there being, from authentic accounts in the society's possession, 166,250 seamen annually frequenting foreign ports and left almost wholly unprovided with Christian instruction when abroad. The society purposed approaching the sailor on his element, from ship to ship, and preaching the Gospel to him, by means of chaplains and lay agents, whose sphere of action would