

ministry in dispensing the bread of life to those who are ready to perish.

We are, &c.

JOHN MACKAY.
NEIL MACKAY.
JAMES FRASER, Jun.
WILLIAM FRASER.
W. GORDON.

Extracted from the Minutes of a meeting of Delegates from all the congregations within the bounds of the Presbytery of Pictou, in connection with the Church of Scotland, held in St. Andrews', New Glasgow, N.S., 18th day of December, 1855. John Mackay, Esq., chairman.

Resolved unanimously.—That this meeting express their sense of gratitude for the benefits which have been conferred upon them, by the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland, in past years; especially for the efforts the Committee have made to supply their spiritual wants; and as this meeting represents a large extent of country, they earnestly urge their claims, and respectfully remind the members of Committee that great destitution still exists, and pray that ministers be sent out to supply this clamant want; and that John Mackay, Neil Mackay, James Fraser, William Fraser, and William Gordon, Esqs., be a Committee to transmit a copy of this resolution to Scotland, and bring the matter more urgently before the Colonial Committee, and further that the Presbytery of the bounds be requested to transmit an application to the same effect.

Extract Letter—Rev. Peter Keay, to the Congregation, dated Boiestown, December 26th, 1855.

At the meeting of the Presbytery of St. John in Fredericton, in the end of February, in addition to the evidence I was enabled to give, of the success which had attended my labours, by the Divine blessing, there was the additional and more gratifying evidence given, of an urgent application for my immediate return to Woodstock and Northampton. At the previous meeting of Presbytery in November, the claims of the Presbyterians in Nashwaak, Stanley, and Boiestown, were brought forward, and the prospect was held out of a month's visit from me, in March. The friends of Presbyterianism there, had, from time to time, been expressing their delight with the expected visit, and in consideration of this, and the supplementary allowance of salary, made by the Colonial Committee, it appeared to be the more judicious course to the Presbytery to appoint me for a month to the three places I have mentioned. Having assisted Dr. Brooke of Fredericton, in dispensing the Lord's Supper to his people, I crossed the St. John, and went up the valley of the Nashwaak to the districts appointed me. I spent four Sabbaths there, preaching twice on each, and visiting the families during the week. This I was able to do only in Nashwaak and Red Rock Settlement, owing to the frequency of snow storm and the difficulty of travelling any distance. I received the greatest kindness from me and all, and had very great reason to believe, from what came daily under my observation, and from what I experienced, that the good hand of God was upon me as I went about, Bible in hand, from house to house, a stranger among strangers. This was, if I may so speak, the theory of my position during my short stay; but, in my hourly experience, I was as a friend among friends. They looked on me as a friend,

with the message of love from the Friend, and every kindness, by anticipation even, was most readily and cheerfully bestowed. When I look back upon my stay among them, especially the latter part of it, I most thankfully acknowledge the goodness of the Lord which followed me, and I bless the Lord for the favour He gave me in the eyes of my people. Stormy though every Sabbath was, an encouraging token for good was given me, in the numbers that attended the meetings I held; while, in my visitations from house to house, I was called to thank God and take courage, from the frequent acknowledgment by them of the pleasure they experienced in listening to my instructions. My earnest prayer is, that the good seed thus sown, having been protected from being "caught away by the wicked One," may bring forth fruit abundantly, to the glory of the Lord of the harvest.

The valley through which the river Nashwaak flows towards the St. John, which it joins at Fredericton, is of great beauty and fertility. That part of it in which my duties lay was called the 42d Block, from its having been given to the 42d Highlanders who were disbanded at the close of the American war of independence. The original settlers, were chiefly from the Highlands of Scotland, and it is still chiefly in the possession of their children and grandchildren. The attachment of the majority of these to Presbyterianism and the Church of Scotland, by the ministers of which their fathers had been instructed in religious things, and whose standards they so intelligently and firmly hold, has been long and sorely tried, and been proved sincere. They rejoice with heartfelt joy, when a minister or missionary of her communion visits their vale. They give them a most cordial welcome, and whatever can be done for their comfort they most readily perform. It may be in the remembrance of members of the Colonial Committee that they have before united with Stanley and Boiestown in applications for a minister, at regular and short intervals, to conduct Divine worship among them, and visit their families. They had for a time the very acceptable services of the Rev Mr Turnbull, and, I believe, also Mr. M'Curdy, but these having joined the Free Church in 1843, the only services they have enjoyed have been when Dr. Brooke of Fredericton could give a hurried visit, and when a Presbyterian minister happened to pass through the valley towards either Chatham in Miramichi, or Fredericton, and could turn aside for a few hours and preach to a congregation gathered from the houses and fields as he passed along. Their desire to have me stay among them, or return after the meeting of the Presbytery in May, was testified by the call which they, with Stanley and Boiestown, presented to me, the amount of subscription being £123, 16s. 6d. currency, of which the people of Nashwaak subscribed fully half.

Stanley and Red Rock settlements lie in the south-west of the Nashwaak, and are both most promising or beautiful, chiefly settled by Borderers, and all, or more strictly, the great majority, firm Presbyterians. Fully twenty miles from Nashwaak, on the south-west branch of the Miramichi river, immediately below where it is joined by Taxis river, lies the little village of Boiestown. There are about ten families in the place, and a few settlers in the neighbourhood. I believe more of the inhabitants belong to the Presbyterian body than to any other denomination of the Christian Church; but all are favourably disposed towards my services, and my meetings

are, in general, very well attended. I have visited all the village again and again, and the greater part of the neighbourhood above and below, and have had a very encouraging reception from one and all. They very readily and liberally made up and subscribed a call to me, which they joined to that of Nashwaak and Stanley. These calls, satisfactorily signed and subscribed to, as the Presbytery deemed them, would have been even more so had they not been made up in the most pressing season of the year, when, in the spring freshest, the stream driving of the lumber demands the services, for weeks together, of most of the men in the country. After my return to St. John (where I had been assisting the Rev. Mr. Donald at his sacrament), from St. Andrews (where I had been visiting Mr. Ross, and filling his pulpit while he arranged some business connected with one of his stations), a meeting of Presbytery was held, when it was recommended that I should delay deciding on the call presented, until I should have again visited Woodstock, and spend a few weeks there. I was the more readily induced to do this, that my congregations had been increasing, before I left, both in that place and Northampton, and that, in the latter parish, a subscription had been set on foot to get up a church in connexion with the Church of Scotland. In consequence of this recommendation, I agreed to give half of the three months which were to elapse between the meeting of Presbytery and that of Synod, to these two stations, and return during the latter half to the three below on the Nashwaak and Miramichi. Before leaving Woodstock, in consideration of its importance as a rising village, I had represented to some of the friends, that in the event of this call they were then getting signed being subscribed to an equal or nearly equal amount with the other, I should prefer it and return, as I should be sorry to lose the fruits of my winter's labours among them. The subscriptions on their call when presented amounted only to £110, 10s., and circumstances discouraging being connected with it, I made my choice in favour of the stations in which I have been labouring with the greatest encouragement for the last two months. This choice I made at the meeting of Presbytery in October, after a great deal of travelling on missionary duty, of which I proceed to write. After having been a month in the Nashwaak, and neighbouring stations, on my return to them from Woodstock and Northampton, I was induced to pay a visit to Canada, purposing to make my stay extend over only one Sabbath; I was, however, detained ten days beyond the time intended, by a severe attack of summer-sickness. I arrived in St. John, only in time for the meeting of Synod. After its close, as I was still very unwell, it was arranged between the Presbytery of Miramichi, and that of St. John, that I should proceed to Bathurst, for sea-bathing and change of air, and give what services I could to Mr. Murray's congregation and people while he remained for a similar purpose, in St. John. Our arrangement was, that the exchange should be for only two or three Sabbaths. Through the blessing of a kind Providence, I was greatly strengthened, and enabled to have regular services in Bathurst; Mr. Murray's illness, however increasing, I had to prolong my stay above a month. When he again took charge of his own people I returned to St. John, and at the meeting of Presbytery there, was appointed to pay a short visit to the Bend of Petitcodiac, or Moncton, at the head of the Bay of Fundy, and on my return, proceeding to St. Andrews to assist