

To each of the above list of names, heads of families, were added the individual subscriptions to be annually given for the support of a Minister.

After long deliberation on the above, and hearing from Mr. Lapelletrie, who lately visited these settlements, an account of their present state and prospects—as also viewing the continued destitution of Divine ordinances in the Congregation of New Richmond; the Presbytery resolved to take into consideration at their meeting, on the first Wednesday of May next, the propriety of, sending a Deputation of one or two of their number, to visit the Congregations in the lower part of the Province in the District of Gaspé.

THE SAGUENAY DISTRICT.

Report of the Rev. E. Lapelletrie, to the French Mission Committee of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland.

As I have already had occasion to say to the Synod, there is for every Christian work in its commencement a time of experiment, a time of trial of more or less duration, when its working is embarrassed and its progress scarcely perceptible—when its principles are not appreciated, and its plans are not systematically drawn. There is indecision, irresolution, in those who undertake it, and consequently a certain distrust, or at least a certain reserve, among its friends and supporters. All desire rather to put off their efforts to support the Christian work to a more distant period, when they imagine they will be able to do so in a more efficient manner. They would rather wait until the work be better established, until it shall occupy an honourable place among the most popular institutions of the age—until it shall have taken root and manifested by its numerous success that it deserves the interest of the Christian world at large. This, I conceive to be a very great trial—a trial, which a great many most useful institutions cannot overcome, but on the contrary are overcome by it—so fond are we of popularity, and so disposed to look upon those works as useless or even pernicious, which are destitute of a great name, and which do not attract public admiration. But I have experienced, that, even after a work has passed through that probation, its obstacles and difficulties often increase more and more, and at times become an insurmountable barrier to human efforts, so that its supporters are painfully reminded that their work is a work of faith, and that they ought consequently to walk by faith and not by sight; and acknowledge, that “the kingdom of God cometh without observation.” This being the case, I would rather prefer to see a growing interest manifested towards the work in which I am engaged, than a spontaneous one—to perceive its developments slowly progressing than if they were attaining at

once the highest pinnacle of popularity—to number few friends, but friends indeed, rather than if it were exciting the admiration of many foes at heart whose hopes and expectations cannot be always realised; and indeed cannot ever be satisfied without compromising some most important principles. With these few brief general remarks on the progress of the work in which I am engaged, I will now proceed to give a sketch of my labours in the County of Gaspé and the country bordering on the Saguenay, where I was sent by the Synod to become acquainted with the religious destitution of the people, and to make arrangements for extending the French Mission in these quarters, where there were said to be some thousands of the descendants of French Huguenots, from the Islands of Jersey and Guernsey.

SAGUENAY.

In pursuance of the design with which I was charged, and in conformity with the instructions to me of the Synod, I have followed up the wide and winding stream of the noble river Saguenay, from the mouth to the head of it—from Tadoussac to Terrerompue. I must say, it is truly a picturesque and lovely part of the country. I have wandered through some of its quiet forests, till I have almost made acquaintance with its innumerable hills and water falls. On Sunday, the 30th of last July, I preached at Grand Bay, twice: in English in the morning, and in French in the afternoon. I baptised two children, and buried one who had not been baptised. He was nine months old when he died, and the parents had not previously had the opportunity to have him baptised. Indeed, his father, a Presbyterian from the North of Ireland, told me that it was then ten years since he had heard, or even seen a Protestant Minister. In the morning, we had a congregation composed of about forty Scotch and Irish Presbyterians, and of two Irish Roman Catholics. In the afternoon, we had about thirty-five persons, among whom were three French Canadians. The village of Grand Bay is prettily situated at the extremity of the Bay of that name, and at the mouth of a little river upon which there is a vast sawing mill, in which many men are employed. The land round the Bay and along this river is excellent, and some fine farms are rising up in every direction; and as the land on the south shore and at the mouth of the river is on a slope until it reaches a range of hills, the fields and the village have a most beautiful appearance from the Bay. There is a Roman Catholic Church in the village, and the Jesuits have lately established three of their order here, and bought ten acres of land in the very middle of that settlement, probably for the purpose of establishing a convent. Two miles farther north of the Bay and on the same side there is another

mill and another village, named Chezmar, situated at the mouth of a river which bears the same name. This corner of the Bay is more bleak, but still the land is excellent, and people are settling fast upon it.

After having done all that I had to do in Grand Bay, I proceeded up the river Saguenay to Chicoutimi, in a small Indian boat with several friends, who had come to the funeral of the child, whose death I have mentioned, and who were returning to Chicoutimi in two boats. The distance from Grand Bay to the latter place by land, is only eleven miles; but as there is no road between these two places, but merely an Indian path—I was obliged to go by the river—a distance of about twenty-two or twenty-three miles. The land at Chicoutimi is still richer than in Grand Bay, and consequently more settled. There are here two settlements and two mills as in Grand Bay: one is on the river “Dumoulin”, and the other is at the mouth of the river Chicoutimi. The distance from one settlement to the other is about two miles. All along these rivers, the land is exceedingly fertile, but principally along the latter—the Chicoutimi, which comes down from Lake St. John, and serves as a way of communication from that lake to the Saguenay. There are boats and canoes coming down or going up pretty often, so that I should think that if a minister is to be settled in this district, Chicoutimi is certainly the most central place, and the most convenient to communicate with the other settlements.

On the 7th of August, I preached twice in Chicoutimi as on the preceding Sabbath in Grand Bay—in English in the forenoon and in French in the afternoon. The population of Chicoutimi is more mixed than in Grand Bay. There are here more who are Scotch by descent than by birth; and these Scotch descendants have generally married Canadian women, and some of them Squaws, so that their children speak and understand the French better than the English language. We had about fifty persons at Divine worship in the forenoon, and fully seventy in the afternoon, the majority of whom were French Canadians. The reason why they came in so great number was probably the novelty first; and, besides, the place where I preached having been occupied until very recently by the Roman Catholics as a Church, and their lease being not yet expired, we had to ask them to lend us the use of that place, which they granted us very cheerfully—which was almost a kind of approbation of my preaching there. An act so praise-worthy on their part, I felt it my duty on the morrow to acknowledge by thanking the priest for his manifestation of his kindness, in a conversation that I had with him. However,