

reliance, they have no idea of asking help outside. Our shrewd brother, aware that the people had some general idea that sermons should be spoken freely without notes, and having the impression that his visitor would probably have MS., announced, not two sermons, but two lectures! Accordingly on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings excellent congregations assembled to listen to the instruction in the form of "lecture" which the visitor was able to give them. It is one of the rewards of such occasional services that the people lay hold and keep hold of the thoughts that may be uttered. They make them the subjects of conversation, and they are remembered many days and even years afterwards.

On Thursday, at noon, Mr. Kean's horse and carriage were in requisition to carry forward the traveller to his next stage. Supposing that Nicktaw was rather more than half-way to Pleasant River, it had been arranged that Mr. Sykes should meet us there with his carriage. Our drive was along the Cornwallis valley for about thirty-eight miles, for the most part among well cultivated farms and along good roads. It rained pitilessly, however, now and again, during the afternoon, and for the last three hours without intermission. Dark and dreary was the night, and we turned into a comfortable hotel four miles short of Nicktaw. The next morning betimes we met Rev. Simeon Sykes, but some hours later than, in the circumstances, would have been desirable. Instead of some thirty-four or thirty-six miles to journey we had fifty-two to get over in time for an evening service at

PLEASANT RIVER.

This was no small undertaking for my friend Sykes and his capital horse. The master had indomitable English pluck and energy, and the animal seemed to be in sympathy; but, alas! for many miles the roads had no sympathy with people in a hurry. Such roads! Rocks, boulders, and then occasional swamp and mud. Had it been all so we could not possibly have got through, but there was enough to try the strength of our carriage, pretty thoroughly to shake its occupants, and to tax the ingenuity of the beast to wend his way amongst them. My friend Sykes afforded all day a fine exhibition of muscular Christianity, jumping at a bound over the wheel in and out of his vehicle time after time; now to lessen the load, and then to lead the horse, who would walk faster when led. The meeting was announced at 7.30: at five minutes past eight we drove up to the door. The expected preacher's garments were soiled with mud, but without entering a house, doffing one coat and donning an overcoat on which he had sat and which was clean, he hastened to the pulpit and commenced the service. The house was full of people; some had come thirteen miles, none had gone away. It was an interesting and really a solemn occasion; and shall we not hope that the seed sown will, through the grace of the Master husbandman, yield fruit many days hence? There are few spheres of greater interest than this occupied by Mr. Sykes. It is of a decidedly missionary character, yet he is consolidating a Church institution. The impress of his labours appears already upon the people, in their superior intelligence in Divine truth, and in their regard for the House of the Lord. There have been precious fruits of his ministry at the Centre, and recently a number of conversions at a station some twelve miles off, where he thinks of forming a branch of the Church. There is much needed another similar workman to take up ground which he cannot occupy and which is lying waste. Comparing things as they are with what they were a few years ago, we became impressed with the inestimable good to a commu-