

the payment, we had it *all in gold*, divided in equal portions in the two ends of a bag, and that as it was tugged along, shifted occasionally from one hand to the other, it did seem a pretty heavy load. But my impression was that there was a little over *one hundred sovereigns* in each end. But, dear, dear, I seemed to exclaim to myself, had there been *seven hundred*, we would surely have had to string the bag across a pole, as the Spies did their bunch of grapes from Eshcol, or to have taken a wheelbarrow, or something of the kind. So I turned to the "Deed" for light, and sure enough, there I found that "all men are bound to know" that it "was for and in consideration of the sum of *two hundred and seventy-five pounds*, lawful money of Nova Scotia, to us in hand paid," that the said valuable property was purchased. Evidently, therefore, the editor of the *Christian Messenger* has fallen in this matter into a pretty large error. The statement might be said to be, like the picture of Barnum's giant, *slightly exaggerated*,—overstated by *nineteen hundred dollars*! Would that all our blunders in figuring up our own affairs, or those of the public, would lead to so little trouble, and be so easily corrected!

I am not so sure about another of your statements. I hope you are right,—it would give me great joy to know that you are so. But I have not the means of deciding, so I can only wish and hope that your statement may be somewhat nearer the truth than your figures. You say: "But compared with other missions, instituted about the same time, this one has had a very discouraging history." This from the editor's standpoint. Were I to make the comparison from the present aspect of affairs, which, of course, without all the facts of the case before me, would be rash, and most probably unjust, I should have to exactly reverse the above decision, and say: "But this (the Micmac) mission, compared with *some* others, instituted about the same time, has had a very *encouraging* history." But then, as just hinted, I may not be, and certainly am not, in a position to make a careful and candid comparison. I might judge as rashly and as falsely concerning these *other* missions, from not knowing any better, and not much caring to know any better, as a certain learned doctor of Halifax, in an article published in a scientific journal a few years ago, wrote and decided respecting the Micmac Mission. Thus he wrote: "A few years ago many most sincere persons gave large sums of money to civilize them. Their money and work were all wasted, if not injuring the race they sincerely sought to benefit. By a most fatal mistake in natural laws, and by teaching them their own language, by printing