

REPORT

OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MICMAC MISSIONARY SOCIETY,

From Oct. 23rd, 1850, to Sept. 30th, 1851.

Two years ago no feasible project for educating or evangelizing the Micmacs, the Aborigines of these lower provinces, occupied the public mind or had even been submitted for consideration. It was sufficiently evident that while the *general* population were rapidly improving themselves and their country, and increasing in number, the descendants of the *original* occupiers of the soil had not for a century taken a single step in the march of improvement, and had so diminished in number that their final extinction was regarded as highly probable, and the date of such an event becoming a matter of calculation.

Happily the aspect of affairs has greatly changed. Different results are now confidently anticipated by the friends of the Indian. In November 1849, Mr. Rand's addresses, delivered and published in Halifax, and thrown into general circulation, became the means of presenting to the public not a little valuable information, respecting the condition of the tribe and their capabilities for improvement. Christian men, who had thought and talked of the desirableness of efforts to evangelize the tribe, came forward at Mr. Rand's invitation to support such an effort. For many reasons Mr. Rand himself appeared to be the man for this work, and when asked replied, "Here am I, send me." During that year he laboured under the direction of a Committee of Gentlemen, named at a Public Meeting; and who being from various Christian Churches, constituted an Evangelical Union, so far at least as the prosecution of this work was concerned.

After the experiment of a year, during which they had ample opportunities of becoming more fully acquainted with their Missionary, and he with them, the Micmac Missionary Society was formed, its Committee consisting, with few exceptions of the same persons. A year having now elapsed, they ask the privilege of meeting the public and telling their Annual Story.

They would state that another year and in many respects a most eventful one, having closed, they are bold to meet their patrons and their Missionary, at this anniversary, and to state that their proceedings have been conducted with perfect harmony, and that altogether when they consider, the way in which they have been led on, and the way in which the Missionary has been sustained, and more than all, the interest excited in so many different places and among so many different classes in favour of the poor Indians, so long neglected by Protestants, they feel constrained to believe and to rejoice that the Lord Jehovah has undertaken the work. The retrospect to which they now invite you will be a simple narrative of circumstances, sayings, and doings, which have filled their own hearts with thanksgiving and their mouths with praise.