

NEWFOUNDLAND

Monthly Messenger.

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ANNUAL MEETING OF NEWFOUNDLAND CONGREGATIONAL HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

On February 27th the Annual Meeting of the Society took place in the Lecture Room of Queen's-road Chapel. The President, Hon. P. G. Tessier, occupied the chair, and in an able address presented the past and present condition of the Home Mission, forecasting also its probable future. He referred to his interview with the committee of the Colonial Missionary Society in London last year, and conveyed the cheering intelligence that they were willing to render this Society further assistance when the state of their funds would permit. The speaking on the occasion was good throughout.

It will be seen by a reference to the treasurer's account, that notwithstanding the depressed state of business in this community a considerable increase in the local subscriptions has been made during the year. We have reason to hope that the coming year will be marked by a further increase. The necessity of increasing our missionaries in this country was strongly urged, and before long it is hoped other labourers will be added.

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT OF NEWFOUNDLAND CONGREGATIONAL HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The Society has been quietly but successfully prosecuting its work during the past year. Under existing circumstances we must be satisfied to progress slowly; the means at the disposal of your committee is small, and the labourers are few. It is no easy matter to enter upon new ground, and in the face of strong opposition, both plough and reap. This can only be done by years of patient and persevering toil. But the work is the Lord's, and already many tokens of his favour have been experienced both by the committee and the devoted agents of the Society.

The Great Head of the Church has raised up faithful men to labour, and He has graciously provided the means to carry out the work through their instrumentality. Mr. Harrington, in Trinity Bay, has been working with his usual energy and zeal. In his last report he says:—"I am now in the seventh year of my labour in this country. When I commenced my work here the people were without any educational or religious privileges. Now I have two day-schools in operation and also two Sabbath-schools, well attended. There are fifty children in the school at Randal Harbour, and thirty in that of Burgoyne Cove. The Sabbath-schools are attended by a much larger number of adults. The schools are of the greatest importance in this locality, as there are no others in the whole neighbourhood. They are supported by a yearly donation from the Newfoundland Home Missionary Society and private subscription from Christian friends. I have also Divine service on Lord's Day, both morning and evening, in the chapel school at Randal Harbour; and at mid-day, weather permitting, at Burgoyne Cove, about two miles across the Sound. These services are well attended. I visit from time to time all the families who live in the different coves around me. I give God the glory that He is daily making me useful and prospering my feeble effort. I am happy and contented in my work, and for a man of my age enjoying excellent health. I am grateful to your Society for its support, and to the Colonial Missionary Society for a donation of £30 to my stipend last year."

The committee rejoice in the successful efforts of Mr. Harrington to carry on his schools, and regret that they are not able to do more to assist him. The Fortune Bay Mission has been worked by Mr. J. B. Thompson, who gives proof satisfactory that your committee were divinely guided when they appointed him to that station. Mr. Thompson writes:—"It is cheering to note the steady progress which the blessed Gospel is making among the hitherto almost neglected population of this bay. Much of the prejudice at first manifested against both the Messenger and the Message seems to have died away, and the darkness which has long beclouded the mind of many is being gradually dispersed by light from the Sun of Righteousness.

"During the summer nearly the whole of the Bay was visited. To my joy, I found that the labours of my predecessor, Mr. Saer, have not been without blessed results. The people are so scattered, and the means of religious instruction is limited, that I was not surprised to find so much carelessness and irreligion. As a rule, I hold religious services whenever and wherever the people can be induced to come together, and when this fails I visit from house to house. Every means is made use of to spread the glad tidings: the distribution of copies of the Scriptures in whole or in part, magazines, tracts, and hymn books. In every instance they have been thankfully received. One result in particular, I think worthy of notice here. A little girl having obtained a New Testament, a number of the inhabitants of the settlement came together on Sabbath afternoon, and listened while she read some of the precious contents.

"The old, old story was new to them, and some of the company, though unable to read, were anxious to possess a copy, that when anyone passed that way they may get that Word read to them again. It is pleasing to record, too, that the easily learned sacred songs and solos are fast superseding the low songs, to the singing of which the young people were before addicted.

"One interesting part of the work is among American and Newfoundland seamen, who visit this bay twice a year in quest of herring. The fruit of this labour we cannot expect to reap or to see in this world; we saw the seed, and, no doubt, the reaping-time will come by-and-by.

"The little church at Bay de North, my headquarters, is still progressing in faith, and knowledge, and love. The members are walking worthy of their vocation still prove Christ to be precious, and His Gospel to be the power of God unto their salvation. The believers' meetings are well attended.

"The Sabbath school is very interesting, and well attended; so is the Bible class and the regular services. The day-school is maintaining its well-earned fame, and the way the children acquitted themselves at a public examination recently held was highly gratifying to their parents and friends, as well as reflecting great credit upon their painstaking teacher, Miss Radford. The difficulties attending missionary labour in this Bay are many and great, but not insurmountable. The Gospel is sadly needed, and I address myself to the delightful task of propagating its glorious truths for another year, if the Lord will. I earnestly ask an interest in your prayers."

Early last year your committee engaged the services of Mr. Wilson, who had been labouring in connection with another society in the island. In the month of May he proceeded to Twilligate, Notre Dame Bay. This large and flourishing town had a strong claim upon your society, the first missionary being sent by this church many years ago. Quite a number of families and individuals are attached to our principles, and have frequently expressed a desire to have a missionary settled among them; besides being the capital of