

gregation. The ability and zeal of the young minister will find room and verge for prudent, persevering, and we may safely add, successful display. He is now the only settled minister of our Church in an Island that presents numerous and very interesting stations for missionary labor. With that blessing, without which no ministry, however talented and devoted, can prove successful, there will soon be added two new congregations; and then, that Presbyterial action which has infused so much life and energy into the things that remained and were ready to perish, will be secured under far more favorable circumstances than at present can be obtained. In the mean time the Presbytery of Pictou have given good earnest, that nothing will be wanting on their part to nurse the *small one* into a *strong nation*.

*Narrative of the state of Religion in the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, 1854.*

It must be interesting to every friend of our beloved Zion to know as much as possible of her statistics and of her finances; that they may see how she is lengthening her cords and strengthening her stakes, and thus extending the Redeemer's Kingdom. But it should be no less interesting to ascertain whether pure and undefiled religion is flourishing amongst us, lest we have "a name to live while we are dead," as to vital godliness. The result of the call of the Synod to report on this subject, has been general, but not universal; though perhaps as much so as could be expected for a commencement. We therefore proceed to give a summary of the materials placed at our disposal for this purpose.

Of the thirty-six congregations of which our church is composed, nineteen have reported, either directly or through the medium of the clerks of the Presbytery. There are also 12 or 15 missionary stations, some of which are regularly organized, and ready to receive pastors, from which no reports have been received. From the Presbytery of Pictou we have received a combined report of nine congregations, leaving six unreported. From the Presbytery of Halifax three several Reports, leav-

four unreported; and from the Presbytery of Truro the same number, leaving the same; and from the Presbytery of P. E. Island a combined Report of five congregations, leaving two unreported.

The combined Report of the Presbytery of Pictou exhibits various items of increase of membership, &c., which, as they appear in the statistics, we need not particularize. There, as it belongs properly to this department, "that domestic and public worship are attended to,—that the ordinances of the gospel and the schemes of the church are well supported. The Sabbath school and Bible classes are prospering. In two of them prayer meetings are well attended, and in one, but indifferently. In two of them the work of the Spirit seems to be advancing; in a third, though hope is entertained, the session decline giving any decided opinion. Two other sessions report unfavorably. They fear personal and family religion are much neglected, as Sabbath desecration prevails; but indications of Providence lead them to hope for improvement.—

Three other Sessions report, both favorable and unfavorable circumstances,—much to discourage—yet not without prospect of improvement from good attendance on public ordinances, increase of religious publications, &c. One of these is struggling on under very trying circumstances of depression and error; though its stability as yet is not thereby impaired. Another, though weak, is contributing liberally to the support of ordinances and the schemes of the Church, and is making exemplary progress, considering its late priviledges. Another session reports gradual progress, though much to lament and bewail—that public ordinances are well attended, and family worship generally observed, and the Sabbath sanctified; and there is a growing desire for religious instruction in almost every part of the congregation.

The combined report of the P. E. Island Presbytery exhibits—one session, lamenting much coldness in spiritual things; much difficulty in finding qualified persons willing to undertake Sabbath schools; much backwardness in the young who have entered the Church by baptism, joining the communion; therefore much need for prayer for the outpouring of the Spirit, and they are not