

progress notwithstanding, during the last few years, as indicated by statistics published by authority of the Synod of New Brunswick.

PRESBYTERY OF YORK.

Within the bounds of the Presbytery of York there are also four congregations, viz: Prince William, Rev. A. Smith, Pastor; Fredericton and Jerusalem, Rev. A. Stirling, Pastor; Salmon River, Rev. James Salmon, Pastor; and Richmond and Woodstock, vacant. Twenty five miles from Fredericton, and within the bounds of the York Presbytery, is also located the congregation of the Rev. Samuel Johnson, still in connection with the Presbytery of Truro. Glassville and Florenceville are important and rapidly growing stations within the bounds of the York Presbytery. Much difficulty is experienced in this section of the church, arising out of the scattered character of their settlements, and their great distance, in many instances, from each other. Compared with the extent of territory over which their services must be distributed, our labourers are few. But they are men of zeal and faith, and are doing a good work in the section of the vineyard in which the Master has cast their lot.

PRESBYTERY OF MIRAMICHI.

The Presbytery of Miramichi, located as its name indicates in the northern section of the Province, extends over a vast extent of territory, reaching from Shediac to the Canadian frontier. In this region five ministers are settled in connection with the Presbytery of Miramichi,—the Rev. James Law, Richibucto; Rev. T. G. Johnston, Blackville; Rev. James Fowler, Bass River; Rev. A. McMaster, New Mills; and Rev. T. G. Nicholson, River Carlo.—The charge of the Rev. Dr. McCurdy also lies within the bounds of this Presbytery, though officially connected with the Presbytery of Pictou. With the exception of Richibucto, the congregations under their jurisdiction are comparatively weak. The statistics of 1864, which appear to be complete, give only 574 families within the bounds, of whom 180 are in Richibucto. The congregation of New Mills is chiefly composed of Scottish Highlanders and their descendants, to whom the Rev. Mr. McMaster preaches regularly in their favorite Gaelic. Many Highland families are also scattered among the neighboring districts. They have been visited a few years ago with a most cheering revival, the good effects of which are still felt. For many weeks the tone of religious feeling was very intense, and the labourers who took part in the work addressed anxious and deeply solemnized audiences daily; and conversed, almost incessantly, with multitudes whose only enquiry was, What they must do to be saved?

STATIONS.

We have thus glanced at the present machinery of our church in New Brunswick so far as the settled ministry is concerned. We shall speak of the Home Mission agency in another place. We may here remark, however, that a difficulty in grouping stations together has arisen in some instances in this way. In a Church of five or six stations, two or three of the stronger ones have insisted on supporting a minister. After the lapse of years the weaker stations begin to cast about for alliances in which they might realize the privileges of a stated ministry. But the stations already organized occupy the centres of the field. Mutual attachments have sprung up between pastor and people, and neither cares to break up existing arrangements. Meanwhile the remaining stations are too weak individually to support a minister, and too far distant from each other to do so collectively.

LUMBERING AND SHIPBUILDING.

The Mission field in New Brunswick has some marked peculiarities. One of these is found in the occupation of a very large proportion of the male population. New Brunswick has capacities for agriculture which are not surpassed by any of the other Provinces;—but the prevailing occupation of its people has hitherto been either lumbering or shipbuilding. The banks of all the great rivers of the Province were clothed with forests of the most magnificent description; and to convert these forests into ships or timber, seemed the branch of industry pointed out to the inhabitants by the finger of nature. But though these forests were vast, they were not interminable, and although in the early history of the trade ships were built and laden with timber cut within sight of the spot, for many years the timber lands have been gradually receding, and in many instances ship-yards and milling establishments have been removed further up the streams, or away to other streams, in order to be within easier reach of the great sources of supply. That part of the population that were occupied in agricultural pursuits usually remained; but the part dependent upon lumbering and shipbuilding moved to the new scene of operations. Existing ecclesiastical organizations were greatly weakened, and, indeed, the usually unsettled habits of those who follow these branches of industry are not favorable to the development of religious association.

And then the lumberer's calling is one of much uncertainty. Only a few make fortunes in the trade. This, perhaps, is true of other callings. But few callings draw so much upon energies and comforts, yet with such doubtful results. During the long winter months the lumberer is buried