

story of the cross, and on the Sabbath the preacher need never want a congregation. Sometimes a difficulty is experienced in finding a building large enough to accommodate all who assemble. On the whole of the coast which we are describing there are seven churches viz., one at each of the harbours, Indian Tickle, Seal Islands, Francis Harbour, Battle Harbour, Forteau, and two at Red Bay. Of these only three are open to ministers who do not belong to the Church of England. But the preachers of the Gospel are still fewer than even the churches. Of settled ministers there are only two, both Episcopalians, one at Battle Harbour, and the other at Forteau. Besides these for the last four or five years the Wesleyans have had a missionary on the coast during a large part of the fishing season, and your own missionary has been labouring in the same field during the past summer. With the exception of Mr. Hutchinson of Battle Harbour who last winter went as far as Sandwich Bay lat.  $54^{\circ} 10' N.$  no missionary has for some years been further north than Indian Tickle, a place about 90 miles north of Belle Isle. Your missionary went nearly as far as Cape Harrison, about 100 miles beyond that harbour, went ashore wherever the steamer called, and spent his time visiting the people, distributing tracts, and gathering information. His visits were hailed with pleasure, and not unfrequently he was told that he was the only missionary who had ever been seen in the place. As Holton Harbour, the farthest point north at which the shore fishery is prosecuted, Indian Harbour, Pack's Harbour, South East Cove, Cartright and Gready, there is a large number of Protestants who during the fishing season, never hear the gospel preached. In Hamilton Inlet where the Hudson's Bay Company have a post, Judge Sweetland states, that besides the agent and his family, there are 24 families of half-castes, numbering in all about 164 persons. Besides these, there are in the same place, 10 families of Esquimaux, 87 souls, who have no settled habitation. Most of the half-castes are of English or Scotch descent on their fathers' side. Quite a number of these people can read, and they are exceedingly anxious for

books; so anxious indeed that in an instance which came to my knowledge, one of them paid eleven shillings and sixpence for a one shilling Bible.

#### SCHOOLS NEEDED.

But schools and school-masters are less numerous than even churches and ministers. So far as known to your missionary, there is only one school house, viz., at Battle Harbour, along the whole coast which he traversed. Consequently education is in a very backward state. In most cases, the children belonging to families which return to Newfoundland in the winter, have opportunities of attending school while at home, but their unsettled mode of life goes far to hinder the progress which they might otherwise make. Those who live permanently upon the coast have no opportunity of learning even to read, except from their parents, who, not unfrequently, are entirely ignorant of the art themselves. In some cases whole families are unable to read. In others one member of the family does the reading for all, while in numerous instances each one is able to do it for himself. Sometimes when parents are urged to use every means in their power to teach their children, they complain that they have no suitable books. Should the church determine to send a missionary next year, it would be a matter of considerable importance for him to be supplied with some such books as "Step by step" of Nelson's Series. A single glance at the circumstances of the permanent inhabitants of Labrador would convince any thoughtful man, that vigorous efforts should be made to advance the interests of education in their midst. Within the last few years the Government of Newfoundland have been collecting duties along the coast, and the general feeling of the people is that the Government ought, in justice, to establish and foster schools in some of the more important harbours, such as Red Bay, where there is a resident population of some 100 souls. Notwithstanding the difficulties with which they have to contend those who can read are eager for books, if they could be sold at a cheap rate.

#### ENCOURAGEMENTS.

From these facts it appears that the field for missionary operations on the Labrador