

THE CHURCH IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

PRESBYTERY OF ST. JOHN.

SEEING that comparatively little is known, by the majority of your readers, concerning the state of our church in much of the district at present included within the bounds of the Synod of the Maritime Provinces, and especially in that part of it which constituted the old Synod of New Brunswick, I have concluded that it might not be unacceptable to them were I to submit, in one, or perhaps two papers, the result of my observations during the last five years, while labouring in the upper part of the Presbytery of St. John—first as a catechist on the Tobique River, and then as a missionary at Woodstock. I shall, in this communication, confine myself to a description of the territory included within the bounds of the St. John Presbytery, and endeavor to give some idea of the nature of the work required in cultivating the outlying corners and the yet unexplored interior of the field. In New Brunswick we have two Presbyteries—that of Miramichi, stretching along the north shore of the province, where more than in any other part of the province, the population is Presbyterian; and that of St. John, occupying the St. John River and all west of the same. In the Presbytery of St. John there are at present seven charges. Of these, two only are self-supporting, viz.: St. Andrew's church, St. John, and St. Paul's church, Fredericton: the remaining five have hitherto been all aided, to a greater or less extent, by supplements from the Colonial Committee, or from the Presbyterial Home Mission fund. The latter are:—St. Andrew's and Dumbarton, Richford, Woodstock and Northampton, Nashwaak and Stanley, Portland and Rothesay. Of these, St. Andrew's and Dumbarton is the oldest, and Portland and Rothesay the youngest. Woodstock and Northampton, and Nashwaak and Stanley, are at present vacant. Although these charges are, in general, far enough apart,—so far, indeed, that it is not an easy matter for the different members of the Presbytery to convene frequently,—yet they do not by any means occupy all the ground supposed to be included within the bounds of the Presbytery, except, indeed, each charge be defined something after the style in which my late charge, Woodstock and Northampton, was described to me:—The diocese of Hanover, including all the parishes on both sides of the St. John in Carleton county, and Victoria county up to the Canadian (Quebec) boundary. Between St. John and Fredericton, a distance of eighty-five miles by the river and sixty-three by the Nerepis road, we have neither minister, nor missionary, nor catechist: so, also, between St. John and St. Andrew's; and so, likewise, to the west of the latter place. Along the line of the E. and N. A. Railroad, our church is not now represented, although formerly, in Moncton and toward Shediac the field was occupied by us. In King's, Queen's, and Sunbury counties, we have not even one missionary. Presbyterianism is not, however, unrepresented, the field being in part occupied by our sister church. Above Woodstock, we have no congregation, although there is one at Florenceville, over which a minister of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces is settled. On the upper part of the St. John River, the population is chiefly French, and, of course, Roman Catholic. At Grand Falls, which is the county town of Victoria, there are one or two Presbyterian families, and in the town a lot of land was given many years ago to our church as a site for a Kirk. There is not, however, any prospect of a Presbyterian congregation being here formed, unless, perhaps, in connection with the Tobique district. At Andover, and on the Tobique river, there are a good many Presbyterian families, among whom, during the summers of '64 and '65, I labored as a catechist.

The Tobique, both point of size and of beauty, stands first among the many fine tributaries which flow into the St. John,—its fertile valley and the sloping ridges which line both sides being capable of sustaining a population of one hundred thousand souls. At the mouth of the river, the land is rugged,