

the mysteries of human nature. As it was, he spared not himself, but worked hard in a distant field. Of the last we shall say nothing. In the Presbytery of Pictou, by far the largest in our Synod, the supply for a long time was meagre, in consequence of the difficulty almost amounting to impossibility of securing Gaelic-speaking ministers for any portion of the Colonial field. Fortunately, two able and devoted missionaries, natives of the county of Pictou, and educated in Scotland, threw in their lot with their native land, and have efficiently and successfully been breaking the bread of life to their countrymen in their own language for several years. When we consider that the adherents of our Church in this Presbytery are, to a great extent, Gaelic-speaking people, and that they cling to and love the language of their fathers with a strong and natural affection, it is not to be wondered at that many touching appeals and applications have, from time to time, been made to the Mother Church for assistance in this direction. It is a pleasing satisfaction to be able to record that, after long and weary years, the call has at least been partially answered, and in the present year our Church possesses in this Presbytery, instead of one, five settled ministers who regularly minister both in the Gaelic and the English language. In addition, we have at the present moment four charges superintended by clergymen who minister in the English language only. This is to be sure, a recovering of lost ground within the last thirteen years for which we have reasons for profound gratitude to the Giver of all good. Still there are vacant places—such as Barney's River, Lochaber and St. Mary's. Besides several of the charges consist of two if not three congregations, some of which are quite able, both in point of number and ability to support a separate pastor. Roger's Hill includes Cape John and River John. Gairloch includes Salt Springs. East River includes two powerful congregations. Earltown includes West Branch, River John. It is not perhaps saying too much that each of these places, either could now, or very soon will be able to support a minister for itself. While in the meantime the amount of labor which has to be gone through by most of the ministers in the Presbytery of Pictou is far too great, yet is apparently too unavoidable.

We are glad to be able to state that we still keep our ground in St. John's Newfoundland, our Church being represented there by an eloquent and devoted servant. Such then in a few brief and imperfect words is our present position in the Synod of Nova Scotia. Our history has been one of trials—of patience, of hope deferred, and of gradual recovery from a great and stunning shock. For the point we have reached, we have been much indebted to the aid and sympathy of the Mother Church. Indeed without that aid we must have perished altogether. That aid also inspired us with hope and encouraged us to make some decided effort for ourselves. To recruit our lost strength by the carrying out of "the Young Men's Scheme," which has been so successful—and also re-organising and preparing ourselves for a more active and efficient future. At the present moment we have four ministers in Halifax, ten in Pictou, three in Prince Edward Island and one in Cape Breton. Too few indeed for our requirements but if we faint not, they will gradually and certainly increase. We mentioned in a former number, that we had not fewer than sixteen young men, natives of Nova Scotia, studying for the ministry. In the course of a few years, these will begin to occupy fields of usefulness among us—enlarging our influence and increasing our efficiency.

But in the meantime, there are pressing duties which if we are wise, we will by no means overlook. We must be ever on the watch to improve our organizations, to increase our means, to train ourselves to an increased liberality in Church matters. We have much in our power, and it is our duty to act rather than to complain or murmur. It is not well to be cast down at every small or even at a great disappointment. There is no body whatever, however properous generally speaking, that is not exposed occasionally to vexatious disappointments. It will happen sometimes that those from whom we expected and had a right to expect support may fail us in the hour of trial. But if we look at such a matter in its proper light instead of thinking of abandoning a good cause on that account, it ought if we have the spirit of men to incite us to greater effort and to conquer victory by a resolute perseverance in the right. And have we not some cause for rejoicing. In Nova Scotia