

The object of this Report to your Excellency will, I presume, be sufficiently answered by the adduction of some particular examples in support of what I have just said. In travelling from the town of London to Goderich, I passed through a tract of country sixty miles in length, in which there is not one Clergyman or Minister of any denomination. I believe I am safe in saying, that the great majority of inhabitants, among whom are comprehended the Land Company's settlers, are of the Church of England; and the services of some of our Missionaries, who have partially visited this tract of country, have been thankfully received by those who pass under other names. Between Wodehouse upon Lake Erie, and St. Thomas, a distance of upwards of fifty miles, which may be travelled by two different roads, there is not one Clergyman upon either. From the reports made to me by one of our travelling Missionaries, and by a solitary Catechist stationed at Port Burwell, I know that there is a great body of Church people scattered through this part of the country. In the whole of the newly-erected district of Wellington, which is every where scattered over with a Church population, there is only one Clergyman of the Church. In the district of Newcastle there are six. I have good reason to know, that if ten more could be immediately added, there would be full employment for them, with regular congregations. In one or two of the districts there is a Missionary engaged in labours exclusively of an itinerant character; but how sparingly the Word and Ordinances of God are supplied, even to those among the unprovided settlements which are thus far favoured, your Excellency will have no difficulty in conceiving. The Clergy, however, except in the few comparatively large towns, are almost all more or less itinerants. I take one example almost at hazard from the returns officially made to me, to which I could produce many parallel instances; it is that of a Clergyman in the Bathurst district, a place noted at certain seasons for the excessive badness of the roads, who performs three full services every Sunday, distributing his labours in such a way in four different places, that once a fortnight he travels twenty-eight, and once a fortnight sixteen miles: besides which, he has in the winter months four week-day appointments for Divine service. Most of the Clergy have what they call out-stations, which they serve in this manner on week-days, to supply settlements which would otherwise be wholly destitute; and many of them make occasional visits during the year to places still more remote. These objects they do not accomplish without many sacrifices, and much severe