

I will briefly notice the county in order, commencing at River John.

Our little church here is, I fear, not in so lively a condition as it was a year ago. It has had since last summer, *one* addition by baptism, *three* have been added by letter, and the church has been strengthened rather than weakened by exclusion found necessary in two or three cases. A church conference has been somewhat regularly held, and the Lord's Supper administered.

A weekly and generally a Sabbath Prayer meeting have been maintained. The attendance and interest have varied extremely, our church members have, alas too much, forsaken the assembling of themselves together. I am, however, not without hope of early seeing our church at River John in a more satisfactory position, its numerical strength enlarged, its inward piety and outward consistency and activity materially increased. My congregation during the portions of the last ten months spent *here*, have, with few exceptions, been fair in numerical attendance, and the interest manifested quite encouraging. From one point especially of this extensive settlement, known as River and Cape John, I cannot but hope for ultimate, if not indeed early fruit to the praise of God's truth applied by his Holy Spirit. Our small chapel, to be fitly called the *Oak Chapel* or Church, remains yet unfinished, owing to neglect. I hope to see it dedicated to Divine service ere, or by, the beginning of '66.

As you are aware I have laboured in Pictou town scarcely at all since August last, and in fact for some time previous to that date. My reasons I have before stated to the Board, and trust they were wise. Yet this church as a visible body, small though it is in numbers, and backward in christian effort, *lives* and I hope will soon be revived, coming up to the help of the Lord against the *strongholds*. A favourable opening seems now again presented to us to re-enter the town and endeavour to establish a Sabbath and other weekly services.

I expect during the coming two months to attempt to preach in River John settlement every Sabbath morning and in Pictou town Sabbath evenings, thus aiming to supply partially those two places. I should like also to be in a position to hold or to see held by a brother Baptist minister, an occasional service even in New Glasgow. I recently spent a day in that town chiefly among a few resident Baptists. They merit some regard at our hands. A large floating population is now also becoming a characteristic feature of New Glasgow and of the neighbouring *Coal Mines*, consequent principally on the building and anticipated traffic of the Pictou Railway. Here there is a missionary field for lovers of the truth and immortal souls.

Of Merrigomish time and space forbid me now from saying much. The Baptist Church in this part of the county, although rather larger numerically than either of the others, is exceeding-