

tinued until October, 1899, when he was obliged to resign, on account of ill health, and he is now taking a much needed rest in his old home in Nova Scotia, but hopes to resume his work in the spring, and on his return thither he has promised to remain over in Ottawa for the purpose of addressing this Society. His place has been filled by Mr. Kirkpatrick, a Student of Manitoba College, who had assisted Mr. Johnson during the summer, and thus was well acquainted with his work, and from whom monthly letters have been received.

The growth of the Swan River settlement had been quite phenomenal, the few tents of a year ago had given place to a large village, but the district is so extensive that it is difficult to organize Church work. As yet they had no church building, and services were held in an immigrant shed, but the railway was now running across the valley, and steps were being taken to secure a suitable church site. Mr. Johnson had opened up eight different centres for Church work, and owing to the wide distance apart, it had been necessary to divide the district into two, and Mr. Kirkpatrick had charge of the Thunder Hill portion. Mr. Johnson gave some graphic accounts of the difficulties experienced in reaching some of these preaching stations, fording rivers on very frail crafts, which gave way, and were rudely tied together with willow withes, and having to continue the journey utterly drenched. Such experiences had undermined his health, and would have tried the most rugged.

One sad accident had occurred to a family who had almost reached their destination. In fording the last stream, when the oxen were almost across, the wagon-box became detached and the oxen drifted down the stream, and the only daughter was drowned and her body recovered after three days' search, and buried near the door of the new home.

These and similar anecdotes shew us what hardships have to be undergone in opening up a new country, and should inspire us with renewed zeal to more diligent work in this corner of the Master's vineyard.

EMILY H. GEMMILL,

*Rec. Secretary.*