

rimed amongst these illiterate, and long forgotten wanderers, a hunger and thirst for the real and the water of life have been excited, and the breasts of some, by whom these pious feelings were formerly but seldom felt, and efforts have been made, and are now making, to procure an increased supply of the means of grace, which are highly creditable, to these scattered and neglected inhabitants.

Musquodoboit Harbour has participated largely in all these improvements, and has of late years undergone a very great change, in its moral aspect. Since the arrival of a number of intelligent, and respectable families from Rothes, in the north of Scotland, and a few enterprising and industrious families from Lunenburg, the population has not only been considerably increased, the state of Society has also been much improved. A large and commodious School House has been erected near the Head of the Harbour, which is used by the inhabitants as a place of Worship, on the Lord's day. A teacher has been engaged during the last few years, for the weekly instruction of the children, and several intelligent and pious heads of families superintend a Sabbath School, containing about 30 children, which has been found very beneficial, in a settlement where Education is still in its infancy.

Around Musquodoboit Harbour, and the adjoining Harbour of Port Pizuec, there are 54 families, containing a population of 319 souls, living within a short distance of the School House, and able to attend public Worship at that place. In mild weather a number of the settlers in the adjacent Harbours of Ch�zetcook, and Jeddore, could also reach this station, and would gladly avail themselves of such a valuable privilege. There are several aged individuals, who have spent more than 50 years on this coast, and yet no regular Congregation has ever been formed, no Session has been appointed, and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper has never been dispensed, although a considerable number of the settlers were formerly communicants in Scotland. It is not at all wonderful, then, that these persons should lament their present destitution, when they are living all of them, 12, and many of them 20 miles distant, from the nearest Presbyterian place of Worship, and have Divine Service only once or twice a year, and then only on week days. They are eager to embrace every opportunity of receiving instruction which offers, and cling with avidity to the faint hope of obtaining the services of a fixed Pastor. Their earnest desire is to have public Worship once a month, in the School House at the Harbour, and when efforts are now making, to obtain a Minister on the lower part of the River, they have opened a subscription to raise their proportion of his stipend.

From the rapid growth of this settlement, and the improving and industrious habits of the people, and more especially from their strong desire for the means of Grace, I am inclined to think that they would contribute willingly, and according to their ability, for this good cause, and it certainly most desirable, that their exertions should be crowned with speedy and complete success.

MEAGHERS GRANT

Passing from the Harbour, and ascending the River, either in a boat or a canoe, the only mode of travelling at present practicable, in this new Country, during the Summer months, or on the ice during the Winter season, after a journey of 12 or 13 miles, amidst wild Meadows, and rugged and barren rocks and hills, on the right and left, we reach Meaghers Grant,

a very rich and fertile tract of land, thinly inhabited, but susceptible of great improvement. Although there is no road opened up, between the Harbour and the Grant, an almost daily and increasing intercourse is kept up, between these two places by boats on the river, and several inter marriages have taken place in these two districts, which tend to strengthen the bond of friendship amongst the population. Their circumstances and occupations are also similar, and they are nearly alike destitute of the ordinances of Religion. There are on the banks of the River, which is exceedingly beautiful and circuitous in its course through this settlement, 24 families, containing 156 individuals, living within a few miles of each other, who are almost to a man steadfast Presbyterians. Anxious for the instruction of their children, they have already erected a School House, near the centre of the settlement, and have been for several years favoured with the very acceptable services, of a most diligent and pious teacher from Kirkmabreck, in Galloway, who devotes all his time to the instruction of the children, from 25 to 30 in number, during the week, and also on the Lord's day, when he reads a sermon for the benefit of the adult population.

Within a short distance of the School House the settlers have also erected the frame of a Church, in a very central spot, and at a public Meeting lately held, on a week day, after Divine Worship, they unanimously resolved to finish the outside of the building, and lay the floor of the Church, with as little delay as possible. They also agreed at the same meeting, to open a subscription list for the support of a Minister, and small sums were signed by a number of them for that purpose. A Gospel Ministry is much wanted among this people, who are living solitarily in the woods, almost entirely secluded from the surrounding country, and from the state of the roads, as well as their remote situation unable to attend public Worship, when it is performed in the Middle Settlement. Should the settlers at Meaghers Grant, succeed in their present attempt, to obtain the services of a Minister among them once a month, such an arrangement would be also beneficial to a number of persons both at the Irish, and the Little River settlements, who are much nearer Meaghers Grant than Middle Musquodoboit. A small but increasing Congregation, would soon be collected in this place, if it were regularly visited, and established as a preaching station, and the wilderness and the solitary place, would soon become glad, and the desert rejoice, and blossom as the rose."

MIDDLE SETTLEMENT.

Leaving Meaghers Grant, and proceeding up the river, after travelling about 8 or 10 Miles, on rough roads through the Forest, and passing the Irish Settlement on the left, and the Little River Settlement, on the right bank of the River, both of which are extensive, and increasing in population, we enter into what is sometimes called the Lower, or more properly, the Middle Settlement, the most populous and flourishing district of Musquodoboit, inhabited by a number of thriving and industrious Farmers, almost all at the head of large Families. Here the country is opened up to view for many miles around, and in some places near the bridges across the river, the adjoining Houses begin to assume, the appearance of small villages. There are several Schools established in this district, as the inhabitants all manifest a laudable desire, for the instruction of their children, and in a central situa-

tion the river, and at the junction of the principal roads, leading through the settlement, a large and commodious Church was opened for public Worship about 20 years ago, which is at present occupied by Mr. Sprunt and his Congregation, every second Sabbath. At the time this Church was erected, this was in the provision, which could be made for the Worship of God, and when this arrangement took place, the early settlers were delighted to find, that those services which had hitherto been performed at intervals of two, three, or perhaps four, months distance from each other, were now to be enjoyed once every fortnight.

Their descendants now look forward to a still greater extension of their Religious privileges. As the population has continued to increase, with considerable rapidity, a number of persons, some of whom were trained up in early life, in the bosom of our Church, in Morayshire, in Banffshire, and in Invernesshire, have manifested a desire to have the ordinances of Religion dispensed, on the intermediate Sabbaths by our Clergymen, in addition to their present public Services. In this land distinguished for civil and Religious liberty the Members of both the Established Churches of Britain, happily enjoy the same freedom of choice, and the same right of professing their distinctive creeds with other denominations, and the Ministers of these Churches are allowed to exercise their public functions, without hindrance or molestation.

When Clergymen of other denominations, are not only permitted to preach in every part of the Province, but highly commended for their ardent zeal, and Missionary spirit, in so doing, and when Episcopal Missionaries, and other Preachers, regularly visit the settlements of Musquodoboit, surely it cannot be considered improper, for the Ministers of the Church of Scotland to attend, to the wants of their own Countrymen, in that district of the colony; nay, they would deserve to be highly censured, if they disregarded or slighted their petitions. The settlers in Middle Musquodoboit, who profess to adhere to our Church, have embraced their Religious opinions of their own accord, without any solicitation or persuasion, before they were ever visited by their own Clergymen in this Province, they prefer no charge, they make no complaints against any individual or body of Christians, they have no wish, nor desire to disturb the existing arrangements for public Worship in the settlement, or deprive the inhabitants of the means of Grace.—All that they wish, and desire is to have the Church, of which they are joint proprietors, to an ascertained amount of the value of the building, open for public Worship the intervening Sabbaths when it is now occupied by any Religious Assembly.

This must be viewed by every candid and impartial person, as a very fair and reasonable proposal, arising it is believed in many instances, from a favourable disposition towards that Church, in whose principles they have been educated in early life, as well as from an anxious desire to extend the blessings of Religion in their immediate neighbourhood. Ad ought not the Ministers of the Church of Scotland to listen to such a proposal, and encourage such an application as this, when those who must provide the pecuniary means for the support of the Gospel, have given such strong and convincing proofs of their earnestness and sincerity, in this good cause. They made repeated and urgent applications to our Clergymen in Halifax, several years before they received any supply of sermon; they