

Sabbath school is now, as then, regularly and well conducted, and much invaluable truth is imparted to the young, which, with the divine blessing, will in time produce its appropriate results. The preaching of the Word of God is generally well attended, and listened to with marked interest. Twelve members have been added to the communion of the professing people of God in this church during the past year; while not a few of long standing have entered the world of spirits. To enjoy, I trust, a holier and more satisfying communion. But there has not been in the congregation or Sabbath school any increase of importance, because there are no such inducements for men of business to settle here, nor for our native youth to remain in it, as are to be found in the different departments of busy life in the towns and agricultural districts of the neighbouring republic. But although, from our situation and want of trade, we are more liable to lose our natural strength than perhaps any other congregation in the province, our church has for thirty years maintained a prominent part in forming the religious and moral character of the young, and in directing and comforting the feeble and aged members of the Church of Scotland. Had our people remained with us in other districts, our congregation would have been amply self-sustaining. The building is sufficient to accommodate 900. It is elegant in the design, strong in the workmanship, and is not encumbered with any debt; yet all that could be raised last year from pew-rents, the only available source of support for the ordinances of religion, was £100 currency, which has been paid to me, but not yet all collected from the people. Every Christian society in the parish receives foreign aid. A larger measure of worldly prosperity may yet be found in St. Andrew's, and a year or two will decide its fate in this respect.

To the Church of St. Patrick I have regularly ministered one Sabbath in each month since the beginning of March, when the severity of the winter began to abate, and the people were able to attend the public services of religion. Eight week days have since been occupied, at different times, in visiting the families in the several localities, and preaching in a schoolhouse or private dwelling each evening. These meetings are well attended.

Some families who were not in the habit of attending public worship at all, have since become regular hearers on the Sabbath; indifference appears sometimes to be aroused to thought, and a spirit of inquiry is excited. The sacrament of our Lord's Supper is dispensed to this church (as it is in St. Andrew's) each year in June and October. The communion roll is seventy-five. The Sabbath school is conducted in the same way, and generally by the same persons, as last year. A hundred small volumes have been added this season to their library. These are read by old and young at home in the long winter evenings, and often with effect. Bibles and catechisms have also been more required, and furnished to some extent. The house of worship is neat, in good order, and also free from debt. In the past year nine persons have been added to the communion of this church for the first time; they are almost all in the prime of life, and their characters and principles encourage good hopes as to their future usefulness and stability in the church. It is not eight years since I first visited this Presbyterian settlement. The house of worship had then stood for some years neither floored, pewed, nor plastered. The people appeared to be discouraged by the poverty of some, and the apathy of others, in

any further attempts towards its completion. I suggested that they should contract, without delay, to complete the work; that they should sell the pews for four or five years, as the cost might require, at a price sufficient to cover the expense; and after that they should be rented annually to assist in supporting the ordinances of religion. This idea was approved and followed, and in less than a year it was finished, as it now stands, and in regular connection with our Church. It is well filled every Sabbath I preach there, with an attentive congregation, composed, to some extent, of different denominations, and is, upon the whole, allowed to be a very useful institution in that part of the country. From this congregation I have received for services since my last return, £22 currency. Thus, nearly £100 sterling is all I have received from St. Andrew's and St. Patrick, and therefore, without the seasonable and liberal aid granted by the Committee of the parent Church, it would have been impossible to meet the heavy expenses arising from the greatly increased value of almost every article of consumption.

I have in the last eight months, including my journey to the meeting of our synod, travelled over 1000 miles, performed 67 regular services, and dispensed the sacrament of our Lord's Supper twice to each church, accompanied with the usual week-day services, without any assistance from my brethren.

As a minister of the Church of Scotland, I can scarcely conclude without an expression of regret that so many settlements in the county of Charlotte, containing a large proportion of Presbyterians belonging to our Church, should have been so long without the benefit of her ministrations, and have at length accepted the services of other sections of the Presbyterian Church, not from any apparent disaffection to the Church with which they were united by the most sacred ties; but from a despair of receiving the ordinances of religion again at her hand. In the past season two additional Presbyterian ministers (not of our Church) have been employed in this county. It is indeed some consolation to find, that if the people are not within the pale of our communion, they are not without the pale of the pure scriptural standards of doctrine and discipline which she has long established and maintained. I trust the late appointment of two missionaries to this province will be productive of much good; and I pray the Lord to prosper His own work.

Another report has just been received from the Rev. A. McKay, which contains much valuable information in regard to the districts around Pictou.

*Report—Rev. A. McKay to the Conference, dated Roger's Hill, Pictou, January 16, 1855.*

The second year of my missionary services, under the auspices of the Colonial Committee, having expired some time ago, I beg to submit an account of my labours, and of the condition and activity of our people within the sphere more immediately under my inspection during that period.

During the greater part of the past year, my labours have been principally confined to the four districts of Roger's Hill, Cape John, Earlton, and West Branch. Besides services rendered in these districts, I visited Wallace and Pugwash congregations once in two months until the latter end of the year. I also spent three weeks among the Belfast people, Prince Edwards Island, during the summer months, and assisted the neighbouring clergy-

man in this county on sacramental occasions on several Lord's days. In the first four mentioned districts I preached forty-one Sabbaths during the year, for which £123 currency will be transmitted to you by this mail, by W. Gordon, elder, Pictou, whose various kind and generous services to our church here have become proverbial. I also received £5 sterling for the three Sabbaths which I preached in Belfast, and £3 11s. sterling for services given at Wallace during the two last years. It is expected that the good people of Wallace will yet send some additional remuneration to our treasurer, to be transmitted to the committee, for services which they received at the expense of the Church.

In these four districts, to whose interest my name was principally devoted, it will be gratifying to the Committee to learn that there is very manifest growing attachment to our Church, and various indications of general improvement. This will appear more evident and satisfactory by giving a brief account of the state of these districts a little more than two years ago, contrasted with their present condition. Then a call and bond had been got up from the three districts of Rogers' Hill, West Branch, and Earlton, to which 173 names of heads of families had been appended. The Cape John section was then entirely overlooked. And even after I came to the country, I had so many statements—no doubt *ex parte* statements, indicating that the people there had been almost wholly alienated from our Church,—that I did not visit them till some months after my arrival. Nor had our people there received one Lord's day service from a minister of our Church, as far as I can learn, during the previous eight or ten years. Towards the close of last summer, however, the Roger's Hill and Cape John sections unitedly got up a call and bond; with the view of securing my services exclusively among themselves. In the former section ninety-nine heads of families had signed and eighty-six in the latter. Nor were these signatures merely formal signatures to a call, but engaging to pay for the permanent services of a settled minister. (And in the West Branch and Earlton districts there are now about 130 or 140 who are desirous of supporting the Gospel among themselves.) During the past year, too, the Cape John section erected a neat and handsome place of worship, which is completely finished outside, their church having been burnt down some years ago. And now, within about seven miles along this closely settled district, there are only five or six families who are not in connection with our Church. The Roger's Hill section erected a superior and comfortable building some years ago, which is now in excellent repair. It was, moreover, agreed, at meetings held lately in these two districts, to purchase a glebe and build a manse for the benefit of their future clergyman, and means are being procured for immediately carrying out this desirable object.

In the other two districts there are two churches. The West Branch church—the outside work having been erected some years ago—was completely finished inside during the past two years. The Earlton building is still held in dispute, although it is confidently believed, that our people, by adopting legal means, could recover it solely to themselves. They have used every possible means to effect an amicable and satisfactory settlement, that they might render it comfortable for divine service. They have hitherto failed. These two sections are now so united and strengthened, that they are most anxious to secure the per-