

A Timely Sermon on the Shore.

About the middle of last century, the Rev. John Brown of Haddington was once crossing the Frith of Forth in one of the large sailing boats then used for passengers as well as goods. On board was a motley crowd of people, going over to a fair in Fife. Their language and conduct were so offensive, that the godly man's heart was deeply grieved and he wondered how he could do them any good. Midway in the passage a sudden gale arose, and the boat was tossed on the waves. The oaths ceased, and the alarmed people crowded around the servant of Christ, whom they had previously shunned. Mr. Brown offered up a prayer for their safety, in which all earnestly joined. On their reaching Burtisland, he called upon them to stay on the shore for a little. Grateful for their deliverance they did so, while he addressed them on their sins, and Christ as the only hope of sinners. After years proved that souls were gathered into the fold that day.

Our Home Missions.

MISSION TO BERMUDA.

REPORT OF MR. W. STUART.

To the Reverend the Presbytery of Halifax :

In accordance with your instructions, I proceeded upwards of a year ago to Bermuda, in order to assist the Rev. W. Thorburn, Presbyterian minister there.—The field, though not very extensive, is one that demands arduous and incessant toil. The two main congregations, Warwick and Hamilton, severally require two services each Lord's Day, in order to keep abreast of other denominations,—and this duty would of itself occupy two clergymen. In addition to these there is a preaching station at St. George's, twelve miles east of Hamilton, where formerly existed quite a promising charge, but which through the lack of regular supply, and various untoward circumstances, has been suffered to dwindle down to the merest fraction of its former numbers. This being the chief military station renders all the more imperative the location there of a Presbyterian minister, who might combine with his duties among the civilians, the

functions of chaplain to the troops. At the western end of the islands—eight miles from Hamilton by water—the Dockyard, with its numbers of resident workmen and sailors belonging to the fleet stationed there, presents an inviting field for missionary operations, and one which has not been overlooked by others. By conducting a third service every second Sabbath at the Dockyard, and a week night's service at St. George's each alternate week—an arrangement which was kept up last fall, winter and spring—your missionary was enabled to do something towards reviving the Presbyterian cause in both localities. During part of the summer Mr. Thorburn conducted a Sabbath morning service at St. George's, principally on account of the troops, a number of whom had presented a requisition to him asking Sabbath supply. The breaking out of yellow fever, and the consequent removal of the soldiers to healthier localities, as also my departure on the completion of my term of engagement have interrupted this arrangement for the time being; but could it be carried out the probability is that ere long a branch congregation could be organized, which, being combined with the church at Hamilton, might readily be erected into a charge distinct from the parent church at Warwick. Of the condition of the Warwick and Hamilton congregations it is scarcely my province to speak, although amongst them my services have been chiefly distributed. Besides preaching in both churches each Sabbath, and in the out-stations as above mentioned, it has been my practice to conduct a weekly lecture and prayer meeting, which has been respectably attended all along. Visits to the sick and dying have also been paid as circumstances directed, though the work of pastoral visitation has in the main been performed by the resident minister, in consideration of my extra labors in the outlying districts. The most gratifying proofs have been given that these efforts have not been unappreciated; and the enclosed flattering testimonial, extracted from the minutes of session, Christ Church, Warwick, may well excuse me from further dilating on my personal mis-