

MISSIONARY REGISTER

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NOVA-SCOTIA.

Vol. 2]

May
1851.

[No. 4.]

Some Missions.

[The Presbytery of P. E. Island last autumn appointed the Rev. John C. Sinclair to proceed on a missionary tour through the Island. A report of his labors was laid before the Presbytery at their meeting on the 11th March last, and unanimously approved. It has been forwarded to us with a request that it should be published in the Register, with which we cheerfully comply, more especially as this is the first opportunity we have had of bringing before our readers the wants of that section of the church.]

REPORT

Of a Mission undertaken by appointment of the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island,

BY THE REV. JOHN SINCLAIR.

I have now in the Providence of God brought to a close the mission entrusted to me at the meeting of the Presbytery last fall. Since I left my own dear people, I have travelled upwards of 300 miles, and preached 43 sermons—20 of them in Gaelic—besides attending other meetings. The first two Sabbaths I spent among the Richmond Bay congregations. I commenced my mission in Crapaud, and visited and preached in the following settlements, viz., Crapaud, De Sable, Arzyle, Leng Creek, Newtown, Belfast, White Sands, Murray Harbor, the Baltic, Bay of Fortune and Eastern St Peters. I have been ten Sabbaths from my own congregation. When I left home I could scarcely imagine there actually existed a necessity for such an undertaking by our Presbytery. I did not expect to see such spiritual destitution as I have witnessed in nearly all the dis-

tricts I visited. But when we consider a population of upwards of 20,000 presbyterians, with only eight ministers, seven of whom have settled charges, the existing destitution is not at all to be wondered at. Perhaps one sixth of this number are adhering to Mr Macdonald, and these, so scattered in different localities from Wilmot Creek, and round the sea-coast till you come to the Baltic, that some of them have only the privilege of hearing him once in six months, and others perhaps once a year. They are said to be prohibited from hearing any other minister, but, be this as it may, I met with every possible kindness from them. I found them not only willing to hear, but attentive to the word spoken. Many of them seem devout, and I trust the day is not far distant, when they will give a helping hand to their brethren in forwarding the cause of Christ generally throughout the world. I spent 12 days in the settlement of Crapaud, De Sable, Arzyle, and Long Creek. Our Church was unknown to the majority of the inhabitants, with the exception of the names of Messrs Keir and Patterson. I never preached to more attentive hearers. All our meetings were well attended. I was a little disheartened at first, being told that Mr McDonald's adherents would not come out and hear; but in this I was agreeably disappointed. One of the men who made the remark, and who was so positive in declaring the uselessness of making any attempt to preach in a particular settlement, told me afterwards he was never more deceived than when he heard