

being assigned to each minister. But even when a consummation so devoutly to be wished for is attained, there will remain some stations on the hands of the Presbytery. Our people at Wallace River and Polly Mountain have given a call to Mr. McCurdy; but we have still St. Mary's to the East, and the village of River John to the West of the Presbytery. The former of these is one of the oldest of our stations; the latter is the youngest. It is difficult to say what should be done with them; for River John is too important to be tacked on to Roger's Hill and Cape John, merely to supply one Sabbath out of six; and Barney's River and Lochaber constitute a field wide enough for any man without the addition of St. Mary's. If they were near one another, a missionary might devote the greater part of his time to them; but they are more than 50 miles apart, and we have no station between them that the missionary might also take charge of. The people of St. Mary's, besides, would like to have Gaelic preaching now and then.

As to River John, the increase of our people there has been very rapid. The old settlers were French-speaking Swiss, and a warm-hearted industrious people of the true Protestant type they seem to be. Their descendants are either Methodists or United Presbyterians. But within the last ten or twelve years a goodly number of Scotch families from the East and Middle Rivers and elsewhere have wedged themselves in among them, and most of these belong to the Church of Scotland. Then in the direction of our Church at Cape John there are two settlements of our people who would like to have a church at the village of River John, as the road is better and the distance considerably less to the village than to the Cape John church. However, there was no talk of church-building till some years ago, when the Rev. Mr. Tallach offered to raise money for the purpose in Halifax. This encouraged them to proceed, and last autumn they erected the frame, amid not a few jeers from enemies and lukewarm friends who prophesied that there the building would stop. They received other discouragements where they might have expected assistance. Men who subscribed lumber did not fulfil their engagements, and they were thus unable to get the frame boarded in before winter commenced; and in consequence the roof was blown off one windy night. However, that was righted again; and Mr. Tallach handed over to them the sum of £38 8s. 8d., which he had collected for them in Halifax; the receipt of which sum they have authorised me to acknowledge.

When the Presbytery sent me to River John in the month of March for a fortnight, I found the people in no very hopeful state. The U. P. church was vacant, and the frame of ours looked cold and bare, as if it never expected to become a church. No one could

tell me how many in the settlement hailed for the Old Church. One man said that we had 15 families; another doubled that number. I went round every section and visited in every corner, and found that we had 61 families. If we have no church at River John, one-third of these would be connected with the Cape John congregation; but they naturally belong to River John. Of the 61 families, 50 are within three miles of the church, but scattered round it in every direction. Many of them are new-comers, and have expended all their money in establishing themselves; so that they need assistance now more than they will at any other time. On the one Sabbath I preached to them in the U. P. church; and on the other in the Methodist church:—to very large audiences on both occasions. We afterwards held a meeting which was well attended, and not by men of the Laodicean stamp but by men every one of whom was anxious to do his part. Collectors were appointed to call in the old subscriptions, and the old list received several respectable additions. It was resolved to proceed vigorously with the church, so that it might be completely finished by the next winter. And in order that this might be effected, the trustees were empowered to borrow £150, and a guarantee was given to them to that amount by fifteen of the most responsible parties present. Mr. A. Cameron was appointed to superintend and hurry forward the building operations. Mr. John Mackenzie, merchant, was appointed secretary, and Squire Holmes treasurer. There can be little doubt that in the hands of such men everything will be done "quickly" and systematically. And not content with doing all this, the meeting then and there subscribed enough to pay for the last missionary services which they had received and for as many as the Presbytery is likely to give them for the next three months. Might not our wealthier congregations take a leaf out of the River John book?

I have taken a great interest in this congregation. It is only three or four years since a Kirk of Scotland minister first preached to them. Mr. Herdman had the honor of being that first man. And now it promises to be a self-supporting congregation before long, or at any rate to form one in connection with Cape John—Roger's Hill being left as big enough to take care of itself. There are some excellent young men in it, and older men too, who take a warm interest in the Church, and who promise to be pillars. Of course there are others who having been for a long time without the ordinances are now careless and lifeless; but these are just the very men that the Church should look after, lest they should become altogether castaway. I hope that this short statement of their position will excite the sympathies of our stronger congregations, so that if they are