

duties with as much regularity as possible, and, I sincerely hope, with some measure of success.

By the departure of Mr. Home to Bathurst, these two congregations were deprived of all clerical oversight, except an occasional visit by the ministers of Chatham and Newcastle. It is not surprising, therefore, that in many instances, habits of carelessness and indifference to religious ordinances were formed, which it will take considerable time to remove. The two churches being separated by a distance of about thirty-three miles, it is, of course, impossible to have services in both on the same day. I preach, therefore, on alternate Sabbaths at each place, and in the afternoon at one of the many adjacent stations. The principal stations connected with Black River are Point Aux Carr, and "The Village," (or Lower Baie du Vin). I also recently held services at the more remote districts of Escuminac and Graham's Mills, and the good congregation and kindly welcome with which I was received will insure, I hope, more frequent visits in the future.

In connection with Red Bank, the stations are the Whitney Settlement and the Little South West, and besides these I have occasionally preached at the Scott Settlement. The number of families who have at least a nominal connection with our Church, may be placed at one hundred to Black River, and eighty-five at Red Bank. It will be seen, then, that the field is of considerable extent, the distance between the two extreme stations being over sixty miles. Great part of my time must consequently be spent on the road, and the work of pastoral visitation is almost endless. Human nature, even though it may not sink under "the care of the churches," will grow weary of the "journeyings often," especially when, as it often happens, the roads are none of the best. I find, however, that a good fast pony—the gift, by the way, of the Black River people—and the certainty of a genuine hearty welcome at the end of the journey, tend wonderfully to shorten even the worst of roads.

I soon found, after my labours had commenced, that there was a pressing need for elders in both charges. At Red Bank there had never been a kirk session, while in Black River there was but one remaining elder, viz., Donald McNaughton, Esq. An efficient staff of elders was afterwards elected in both places, and duly ordained by the Presbytery.

Each elder has the oversight of a particular district, and reports cases of sickness, &c., to the minister. The congregations, both in the two churches, and also in the different stations, are very good in sum-

mer, but in winter many causes tend to reduce the average attendance. I dispensed the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at Black River, Sabbath, July 27th, to fifty-one communicants, thirteen of whom were so for the first time; and at Red Bank, September 28th, to forty-two, one for the first time. The number of baptisms during the past year was about seventy.

During the year, the congregation at Red Bank having become ashamed of the shabby, faded, and generally Presbyterian appearance of the Kirk, reshingled, painted, and made some additional improvements to the roof, and expect, before the present season closes, to have the whole outside decently covered with a coat of paint.

The Kirk at Black River requires to be similarly renovated, but as the people have been busy this season in putting a proper inclosure around the graveyard, and otherwise improving the surrounding grounds, they have deferred all work at the Kirk till next summer. I may state, also, that some of the ladies of Black River, with becoming thoughtfulness, collected sufficient funds to procure new window-blinds for the Kirk, and furnish the pulpit and vestry with all the modern improvements. Besides these good works, both congregations have contributed liberally to the different schemes of the Church.

In reference to the support of ordinances, I might remark, that, with a good system of organization by the Presbytery, much more could easily be done. Undoubtedly these two large congregations should, in these prosperous times, be self-sustaining. A strong effort in this direction is to be made during the coming year, with every prospect of success.

I may add that a strong impetus has been given to the movement by the recent visit of the new Convener of H. M. Board, and the Presbyterial visitations of the congregations, lately introduced into this Presbytery.

This accomplished, each congregation should strive to have a stationed minister of their own. If all would only do their part, there would be but very little for each one to do to bring about such a desirable state of affairs. I feel confident that all assistance will be rendered by the Presbytery in such a movement. When we consider that, in the three large and important parishes of Northesk, Glenelg, and Hardwicke, there is not one resident Protestant clergyman, and that a very large proportion of their population are Presbyterians, we can see that even at our own doors there is much work ahead of us as a Church. Let us strive to make up for the lethargy of the past, by more strenuous exertion in the future and, with God's blessing, success will be certain.