

minister who truly watches for souls, must know the deep anxiety which he feels for those to whom he preaches the Gospel. His *preaching* to them is not enough. He longs to see them face to face, their own homes, and then in more intimate communion with the family, direct them personally to the Lamb of God. This he cannot do while his people are so scattered, and his parish is so large as we find them in these new settlements. To the honor of those laboring in these parts, be it said, that my short acquaintance with them, has proved them faithful men. Rev. Mr. Flanders of the Methodist Church, and Rev. A. T. Whitten, and Rev. Robert Lindsay, of the Episcopal Church, are abundant in labor for the good of their respective flocks. Yet what can they, and all other ministers do in pastoral visits, when the field of labor is so large. One of them has *sixteen* preaching places, and to meet his appointments must preach almost every day in the week, besides preaching three times on the Sabbath. The extremes of his parish are twenty-five miles apart, and the work of each of the others is scarcely less arduous.

What can Ministers do in *pastoral visits*, when they are driven to and fro, like a weaver's shuttle, over highways and by-ways, to meet their appointments in preaching? They can do nothing. If they make a visit, it must be a *flying* visit. They cannot have time to sit down for an hour, and talk seriously with the family about the interests of their souls, and then seal the impressions made by heartily commending them to God in prayer. Many families which I visited, spoke of never having a visit from the minister. One case I will mention. I called on a family, when I soon learned that the mother was a widow. She was a member of the Methodist Church, yet, she had not heard a prayer, nor seen a minister since she left the old country, over a year ago. She seemed rejoiced to have one call on her who could pray, and we kneeled and wept together at a throne of grace. When we met such persons, we always went away feeling that it was worth all our toil, to be able to comfort and encourage them to go on in a Christian life. Could you have looked in upon the families, as I visited them from day to day, you would have seen the eyes of many of those honest-hearted and hardy farmers filled with tears, as we endeavored affectionately to speak of the love of Christ, and to urge upon them the duty of immediate concern for their souls.

I fear I have written too much already in giving you these thoughts and feelings concerning the Colporteur work in Canada. To me it has been a most interesting work, and I shall ever look back with pleasure upon the time spent by me in the service of the Montreal Religious Tract Society. If my labors on our interesting field does not benefit others, I know it has done me good. I can appreciate better my own exalted privileges, and I hope I shall be humbled that I have such advantages for knowing God, and yet improve them so little.

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