

The Scriptures in the Gaelic language were also sent; nor was the improvement of their temporal condition overlooked—hemp, cordage, and tackle, for their use in fishing, being occasionally furnished to them.

It was thought best to send forth the preacher of the gospel, in the first instance, as a missionary to the whole island, who, as soon as another was found to succeed him in that character, should be at liberty to become the settled pastor of a congregation. In this way a desire for religious instruction was awakened among the people, and the spirits of the godly were revived and quickened to a more ardent desire for the bread of life; and so great did this desire become, that in the expectation of a continuous supply of ministers, fifteen wooden churches were in a short time erected, or in a state of forwardness. To all was imparted a desire for knowledge; so that, as in a natural course of things, the catechist and teacher followed in the train of the preacher of the Word. A gleam of spiritual and temporal prosperity broke in upon the gloom and darkness which had so long overspread the people.

The blessing of God seemed to rest on the undertaking. So viewing it, Mrs Mackay felt more strongly the obligation to go forward in the work.

We have said, that the supply of the means of grace to the poor settlers in Cape Breton, was mainly through the instrumentality of Mrs Mackay, because it was the fact, and because it shows what may be accomplished by an individual Christian faithfully employing talents and opportunities with a view to a specific object. The pecuniary means, indeed, were at first, to