

are founded on my experience with the working men, and the trial which has been made of a Working Men's Mutual Instruction Class, which has been carried on for some time in this district, for the benefit of the working men exclusively. During the time it has been in operation, it has afforded abundant encouragement, and has been truly interesting. The time the class is held is from seven to nine o'clock on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings. The men have often wished for more evenings in the week, but this is not convenient. The class, and things connected with it, very much increase my labors. Instead of spending six hours a day in visitations, and then having done, I am often engaged from nine o'clock in the morning until nine o'clock at night. But the work is a delight, not a toil. The course of instruction is simply reading, writing, and cyphering, with explanations and conversations which arise out of our reading. Most of the men who come have never attempted to cipher before; others had never taken a pen in hand to write; and some had not even learned to read. But it is truly gratifying to see the progress which all are making. About forty men have joined the class the last few months, most of whom are still connected with it, but some have left because of having had to quit the district, and go to other places to work. The men who compose the class are navvies, railway laborers, smiths, mechanics, and out-door laborers. The New Testament is our reading book. This gives me an opportunity of bringing the subject of Christianity before the attention of the men, and of recommending the religion of Jesus Christ to their reception. One hour on the Wednesday evening is devoted to a Scripture lecture and religious worship exclusively, and this is open to both men and women; but the chief attendants of late have been working men. I have also seen many of them at places of worship on the Sunday, who used to neglect that important duty. Each of these men signed a petition against the late Sunday question for the opening of the Crystal Palace. These things shew an improvement in a moral point of view. But I believe this class might be rendered much more useful, if we had the help and means necessary. If the class could meet oftener, and if occasional lectures could be given on popular and interesting subjects of general and useful information, it would be attended with much greater advantages. Or if the small library which is already in use amongst them could be increased, or I had the means for introducing and circulating amongst them some of the cheap but excellent publications which are now put forth for the improvement as well as the amusement of the laboring classes and their families, such as "The British Workman," "The Leisure Hour," "The Sunday at Home," &c., I believe that these might, to a great extent, be made the means of superceding much of the cheap, irreligious, and pernicious literature which has such an injurious influence on the minds and morals of the people, and would be attended with most beneficial results in removing ignorance and its attendant prejudices from the minds of many, and of ultimately winning not only the attention, but the love, the confidence, and the heart to the Saviour.

But while speaking thus of the working men, and the little good we have been trying to effect amongst them, I must not forget to notice that their wives have not been neglected. I am happy to say that a Mothers' Monthly Meeting has been established for

their benefit during the past year. This is conducted by an excellent Christian lady from Clapham Common, and promises to be a means of great moral and spiritual good.

The places besides the district to which visits have been made have been the prison, the work-house, the hospital, the asylum for unfortunate girls, and the refuge for depraved boys.

Several in the district have been rescued from the path of error, and prevented becoming Romanists and Latter-day Saints. About ten or a dozen men have been more or less outwardly reformed from vicious habits and immoral practices, some of whom have been the most notorious sinners I have ever known. Many deeply interesting and separate reports might have been written respecting them, but I have not the time nor the space.—*Missionary Reports.*

## THE MONTHLY RECORD.

OCTOBER, 1856.

### Appointment of Military Chaplains.

We have lately had frequent opportunities of witnessing and admiring the zeal and active exertions of the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland, and we have been forcibly reminded of the truth of the observation, that the public authorities and private Christians are never unwilling to perform their duty when it is fairly brought under their notice. Nay, there are many persons of such a generous and benevolent disposition, and possessed of so much influence and property, that they are anxiously waiting for openings to more extended usefulness and longing to do more good in their generation than they have hitherto done to their fellow men. We know no class of the population that has stronger claims upon the sympathies and liberality and prayers of their fellow countrymen, during the present protracted and harassing war in India, than our brave and intrepid soldiers who are perilling their lives, and many of them shedding their blood, in defence of the institutions and possessions of our native land. It is these heroic warriors who have re-conquered, and will, we trust, pacify India, and preserve one of the largest possessions of the British Empire and one of the brightest jewels of the British Crown. Full well does our gracious sovereign know the value of her unrivalled troops, and every true-hearted and loyal British citizen cannot fail to wish them God speed in their hazardous and most harassing, although not hopeless, enterprise. None stand in greater need of the instructions and consolations of religion than those who are exposed to all the temptations of a camp, to all the diseases of a pestilential climate, and to all the dreadful horrors of war. It is therefore with unfeigned satisfaction we learn that, in compliance with the request of the Colonial Committee, the military authorities at Head Quarters are

appointing Presbyterian Chaplains in connection with the Church of Scotland at all the principal military stations in Great Britain. We find that the Rev. William Anderson, son of the minister of Crathie, has been appointed by General Peel as military chaplain to the Presbyterian troops at Chatham, and the Rev. P. Beaton has received the appointment of military chaplain to the Presbyterian forces at the Wellington barracks, London. A number of similar appointments have also taken place in other military stations. But we have not yet heard whether any such appointments have taken place at Gibraltar, at Malta, at Corfu, and other large military stations abroad, where there are always a number of Presbyterian officers and soldiers belonging to the church at home who often make loud and just complaints of the manner in which they are neglected by those of whom better things ought to be expected when they are serving in distant stations in the colonies.

### Address to the Superintendent of Missions.

To the Rev. JOHN MARTIN,  
Superintendent of Missions for the  
Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia  
Rev. and dear Sir,

We, the Subscribers, Elders and Trustees of "St. Luke's Church, Salt Springs" congregation, for ourselves, as well as our brethren of "Gairloch Church" constituting the united congregation of "Salt Springs and Gairloch," cannot allow the opportunity, at the close of the dispensation of our Lord's Supper, so auspiciously terminated with the blessing of God, through your invaluable services, so ably assisted by the energetic servants of Christ—the Revs. A. W. Herdman of Pictou and Alex. McKay of Belfast, P. E. Island, to pass without thus presenting you with our unfeigned thanks and gratitude for the ready manner in which you responded to our call to officiate to our present destitute congregation, and for the alacrity with which you have hitherto performed repeated services to the congregation, and the interest you have always shewn to make up, as far as in your power, for their destitution.

Nothing can evince the manner in which your services are appreciated among us, more than the attendance on your ministrations at all times, many, even of those who do not comprehend the word of Grace in English, knowing that when a zealous servant of Christ is administering to the flock, it is well to be there, inasmuch as the expectation of receiving the benefit, may be conferred and carried home to them through the influence of the holy spirit, in a manner only known to the God of Salvation.

We congratulate the Province on the