

MISSIONARY MEETINGS IN NOVA SCOTIA.

YARMOUTH, NOVA SCOTIA, May 24, 1865.

MY DEAR BROTHER,—At the invitation of resident brethren, Rev. John Gray, of Chebogue, and I left Yarmouth on Monday morning, May 1st, to attend Missionary Meetings in Queen's County, N. S. The first meeting was held in

Liverpool on Tuesday evening. We had a two days' drive over a rough and dreary road one hundred and six miles long—how rough, let those testify who have some acquaintance with Western Nova Scotia; and how dreary, you may judge when I tell you, that it passes through several forests for miles together, and across a barren three leagues in extent, a dismal waste where no man dwells. Judging by the road, one would suppose the country to be very sparsely populated, but the settlements lie, for the most part, nearer the coast, which reference to a map will show to be indented with numerous bays. Taking the distance and roughness of the way into account it will not surprise you to learn that the bell on "Old Zion" was ringing for service before we came in sight of *Liverpool*. After caring for our horse and for ourselves—the former very properly coming first—we were escorted to the meeting by a deacon sent to see if we had arrived, and entered while Bro. Black, late of Lanark, C. W., now of Milton, N. S., was speaking. It did me good to hear our brother's familiar voice, and the not less familiar voice of Bro. Howell, who presided, whom I had often heard in our Union Meetings in Canada.

The Church is an antiquated building a little modernized, which makes it the more unsightly. The pulpit, once adapted to the galleries, has given place to an immense organ with a preacher's stand in front, from which the occupants of the galleries can scarcely be seen, and on a platform so circumscribed on one side that an unguarded movement six inches to the right might precipitate the preacher into the aisle. The pews are square with narrow seats and high straight backs, surmounted by the usual capping, and therefore, need I add, most uncomfortable. Brother Howell is hoping to see a new Church erected; and were certain difficulties surmounted, this hope, I presume, would soon be realized. As it is, an Act of Parliament for the sale of "Old Zion" has been secured, and sooner than we anticipate the prospects of the Congregational Church in *Liverpool* may brighten.

The meeting seemed to be very successful. Brother Sykes, of Pleasant River, besides the brethren already named, and the Yarmouth County deputation, addressed the audience. Addresses were also given by Rev. Messrs Hart and Coffin (Wesleyan), Harris (Baptist), and a brother once a soldier in Havelock's army, who, since his conversion three years ago, has labored under Presbyterian auspices as a colporteur in India, whither he hopes to return shortly. His statements were specially interesting.

The following evening we met the good people of *Brooklyn*, where there is a branch of the *Liverpool* Church. *Brooklyn* is a thriving village almost opposite *Liverpool*, and exclusively Congregational ground, no other denomination having an interest there. The Church building is under contract for enlargement. It rained heavily throughout the day but partially cleared up towards night, and a fair congregation assembled to listen to the advocacy of the claims of the Missionary Society. We were promised an increased subscription, and shall look for the fulfilment of the promise.

We held our next meeting at *Milton*, two miles above *Liverpool*, on Thursday.