

by abundant blessing, especially in the Churches of St. John and Portland. Hundreds of converts "gladly received the word," and were baptized.

Two brethren have been ordained, viz. :

Nov. 25, 1869. Joseph Jones, Digby.

May 8, 1870. J. B. McDonald, M. D., Bedique, P. E. I.

Seven new Churches have been constituted, viz. : West Bay, Cow Bay, St. Ann's Bay, South Bar (all four in Cape Breton), Canning, Mount Pleasant and Centreville, in Nova Scotia; and St. Stephen, in New Brunswick.

Seven new Meeting Houses have been opened. In Nova Scotia—at Halifax, Truro, Westbrook, and Middlefield. In New Brunswick—at Sussex Vale, St. Stephen, and New Salem.

The Committee regret to state that many of the Churches are destitute of pastors, with no present prospect of supplying the want. It is much to be deplored, also, that the number of Licentiates is unusually small. The ministry of the gospel does not seem to present such attractions to the young men of our Churches as might be hoped for from the sublimity of its objects and the responsibilities of the possessors of talents to the Great Giver and Lord. In some instances, too, the tie of patriotism is easily snapped, and the pressing claims of home are allowed to yield to other considerations, not always admitting the plea of necessity. That plea, however, is fairly urged when the ministry of the gospel is inadequately supported; and the Churches, in such cases, ought not to complain if they lose that on which they set so little value.

These facts, connected with the teachings of the New Testament and the practice of the earliest Churches, lead to the conclusion that our spiritual condition would be vastly improved, if the energies and resources of all Christians were consecrated, as they ought to be, to the service of the Master. Christian labour is generally confined to an insignificant minority, and sometimes, even to Church officials, whereas every believer is under obligation to use for God the talents and opportunities bestowed upon him, and none but those who are physically or mentally disqualified can claim exemption. There is a frightful amount of dormant power in our Churches. Were it systematically brought into action, under the management of the pastors, a far healthier state of religion would result, and the existing sources of lamentation and complaint would speedily dry up.

The beneficial effects of pastoral visitation are so obvious that the Committee deem it proper to suggest to the pastors of the Churches the desirableness of inquiring into the means of making that branch of their labour still more productive of advantage; and they take this opportunity to remind their brethren, throughout these Provinces, of the importance of direct and individual efforts, both for the increase of piety in the Churches and for the conversion of sinners. In olden times "they that feared the Lord spake often one to another." Very solemn is the admonition of the wise man, "If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain; if thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and