

[FOR THE RECORD.]

KEENE, ALNWICK, PERCY, MURRAY

We had our communion in Keene on the fifth inst, when brother Smith from Bowmanville assisted. The day was fine, the attendance was large, and the services solemn, and we trust that many felt, as they expressed themselves, that it was good to be there. According to Presbyterial appointment Mr. Smith and I were to visit some missionary stations in the Cobourg Presbytery after our communion. We started on our missionary tour on Monday morning with cheerful spirits, and with a no less cheerful sky. We headed first for Alnwick, which lies about seven miles south-east of Keene. Our passage was over Rico Lake, which we crossed on the ice in safety, and got the length of Mr. Campbell's, and partook of his hospitality. We here learned that the Rev. Mr. McLeod, of Cobourg, who had been opening the new church at Norwood, on his return home, would preach that evening.—The number of individuals connected with our Church at Norwood is not great, yet they are firm, and were the supplies more regular no doubt they would greatly increase. Our next destination was Percy. It lies south-east from Alnwick about thirteen miles. The way between the two places is a succession of steep hills, with few comfortable houses to take away the tediousness of the road. The slow passage over such a road, and the white monotony of winter has a tendency to lull to sleep. We reached Percy about five o'clock, and found a comfortable resting place in Mr. Douglas's. He has got a comfortable home, and best of all, in it there is a prophet's chamber. He is an intelligent man, and devoted to the Free Church.—Our meeting was to be at seven o'clock, and for it the Baptist chapel was kindly granted; but when we went scarcely any had come to our meeting. The reason given for so few was, that a theatre was in the village that evening.—Strange that the pleasures and follies of the world have a more attractive power than what pertains to the welfare of Christ's kingdom, but perhaps it is not strange when 'tis remembered that the objects upon which the mind is constantly dwelling are earthly, with only occasionally having the realities of religion pressed upon their attention. We commenced the business of the evening and soon a goodly number gathered in. Mr. Black, an intelligent farmer in the district, was called to the chair, and after stating the object of the meeting, Mr. Smith gave a speech on the various schemes of our Church, and I spoke upon missions in general. The collection was near £4. I may say, on the whole, that this is a most interesting station, claiming particular attention from our Church. The village is interesting and increasing, the country around thickly settled, and the people apparently rich. There is a great want of the means of grace; so that this place has strong claims upon our Church. Mr. Tait, student, who supplied them last summer, was very popular among them, and I have no doubt that, under the divine blessing, if he were sent to them again, he would be an instrument of much good.

The next day we started for Murray, about ten miles south-east of Percy. The day was bright, the roads good—a number of comfortable dwellings were in our course, and above all, the thought that we were engaged on an errand for our Master, made us pass along very cheerfully. In Murray the settlements seem good, the people rich—but many are rich in this world who are not rich towards God. A good many of the settlers in the district are Highland Scotch, some of whom, rather than be debarred from public ordinances, have connected themselves with the Methodists, whilst many others, no doubt, have forgotten the sanctuaries of their fatherland. It is wonderful how very soon those who have enjoyed early religious privileges,

when they come to a strange land where they have no invitation, "come let us go to the house of the Lord," forget all early associations, and lapse into cold indifference. Our stopping place was Mr. P. McPherson's, a Highlander, marked for the wanted hospitality of his people. Our place of meeting, in the evening, was a pretty large school-house, and it was quite filled. We thought it would be well in this place to combine a religious service, with addresses on missionary subjects. I accordingly preached, but I am sorry to say, felt quite unhappy in this department, as the noise of squalling children drowned my voice. And here, Mr. Editor, I may mention, it is calculated to awaken the ridiculous instead of deepening impressions in a congregation, when one of the most solemn passages of a minister's discourse is broken in upon either by the crying of children, or by a dog warfare. I have read of a lady who always made it a point to be in her seat previous to the minister's commencing the services. She made it a part of her devotions not to disturb the devotions of others. Dogs are a nuisance in a place of worship. The collection was only seven shillings. I am, however, on the whole, pleased with Murray. It is with them, as yet, the day of small things. When they shall have been fed with the sincere milk of the word, no doubt, they will be disposed to do their duty.—We returned from this short service much benefited. We saw our own insufficiency and our sole dependence upon divine grace. We learned something of the spiritual necessities of this land. How much would a Wesley or a Whitfield be required to awaken individual consciousness, and to bring the minds of the people in closer contact with the great realities of eternity. "Awake, O arm of the Lord, as in the ancient days."

KEENE, March 28, 1853.

LADIES' ASSOCIATION, COBOURG.

The Female Association in connexion with St. Andrews' Church, Cobourg, held their annual sale on Tuesday, 29th March, when they realised £19 10s. 8d. The juvenile members of the society, who had a lot at the sale, raised £8 4s. 6d. After defraying all expenses, the Treasurer declared a balance of £41 15s. to be at the disposal of the Association for missionary objects. The Ladies allocated this sum as follows:—

Bursary Fund	£7 10 0
French Canadian Mission.....	5 0 0
Homo Mission of the Presbytery.....	15 5 0
Knox's College Fund.....	14 0 0

£41 15 0

The Sabbath School Teachers having applied to the Association for some assistance to enable them to obtain Libraries for their schools, the juvenile branch of the Society voted £5 for this purpose, and £2 to the Metis mission. The balance to be kept on hand for incidental expenses.

The Association have again commenced working, and have resolved that all the money raised during the current year shall go towards the building of a manse.

The young ladies in connection with St. Andrews' Church, Cobourg, got up a Soiree in the month of February. The proceeds of which was £20 3s. 10d. This sum was raised for the purpose of making some necessary repairs upon the church.

I. McLeod, Secretary.

STUDENTS' MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the Record.

DEAR SIR,—
We would again ask a place in your columns to express our thankfulness to God, who is pros-

pering our work, and to those friends whose liberality enables us to carry it on among the poor habitants of Canada East. Our school goes on prosperously, not, to be sure, with such gigantic strides as some look for, but steadily, and we fervently hope, surely. The encouragement presented to us is indeed so great, that we have determined on the erection of a suitable building for the school-room and boarding-house. Mr. Pasche seems to be doing his work effectively, and we have cause for gratitude that such a man was, in the providence of God, given to us. We submit the following extracts from the regular monthly letters from Metis, which will give a more definite idea of what is going on.

In a letter of 24th January, Mr. Pasche says, "Since the Christmas holidays, the Canadians in the neighbourhood have almost entirely given up coming to us in the evenings. I think partly, because, unfortunately, many of them came only from curiosity, to see and to hear the Swiss; but chiefly, because the Priest used all his efforts to prevent them from seeing us. I was told that, in coming to sup with one of our neighbours, he himself, to find out who were out of their own houses, and who might be here, visited several families early in the evening. Nevertheless I rejoice for the little that I have been able to sow of the Holy Word. Blessed be God, it will spring up and bear fruit in his own time." In the same letter he says, that the number then attending the school was six.

In a communication of Feb. 16th, he says,— "Although on the 25th of last Nov. we began and continued our school for three weeks with a single pupil, today I have the happiness of having thirteen present, from the ages of seven to sixteen years. I have been told that the Priest has advised his parishioners to have patience, and that before a year, those who support me, as well as myself, will be discouraged at not getting their children—so I will have to leave, and that they themselves can establish schools as they please." In regard to the erection of a Mission School he writes: "I shall remind you, gentlemen, and dear brethren, that the house which we occupy, is only hired for five or six months longer, and that it does not appear to us at all advisable to rent it for another year; first, because the rent would probably be larger than it is at present, and secondly, because the house is extremely cold, and, besides, it is decidedly too small. For example, one apartment of eighteen feet by eleven, we are obliged to make school room, kitchen, and wash-house. The other part of the same size, is divided into two small rooms, of which, one is our bedroom, the other serves for my study, the eating room for all, and the sleeping place for the servant. Whatever house we might have here, the rent would, in a few years, equal the sum requisite to build one much more suitable for our purpose.—Mr. Ferguson, the seignior, is always ready to give ground for the site."

In another letter of March 19th, Mr. Pascho says, "Since I sent my last report I have had the happiness of making some visits, particularly on the Saturdays, the days on which I have no school. Mr. —, and myself visited Mr. —, who, for some years, has had the New Testament and read it. As soon as we entered he declared to us that having been troubled about religion, he was determined to follow the instructions of the priests. We had a pretty long conversation with him. I pointed out to him Rev. xxi. 18, 19. He appeared struck and more serious. Mr. — having said to him, on leaving, that he ought to send some of his children to our school, he replied that it was not in his power to do so, the priest having forbidden him. On Saturday, 12th, I visited the person of whom I spoke in another report, as reading the Testament. He appeared concerned on the subject of his soul, and is seeking to discover the truth in his books, but hitherto without success. He asked several questions, which I answered by refer-