

simply the best and speediest mode of securing gospel privileges for themselves and children. In circumstances accordingly, the most unpromising in many respects, and where numerous and serious obstacles had to be overcome, many of the first stations made most unlooked for advancement. The hand of God was, it may be here observed, very conspicuous in directing the first labourers into the best fields for obtaining a footing for the cause; not only in guiding them into those settlements where a considerable number of Presbyterians were located, but in a great many cases, where there was either entire destitution, or no religious exertions of an efficient character put forth. It deserves notice at the same time, that the sections of country where they first found a footing, were the *newest* and of course, where for a series of years, difficulties peculiar to a new country were to be encountered. While Messrs. Christie and Proudfoot both travelled, and with an exploring object continually in view, the greater part of the way from Kingston westward by land; while they not only found various Presbyterian settlements, but even earnest entreaties to remain and labour, still, they were induced to move onward till they reached the country north and west of the head of Lake Ontario. In other words, they were guided through the *old settlements* where the inhabitants indeed had surmounted their difficulties, and become comparatively able to maintain the Gospel, but where at the same time, the field was either partially occupied, or the majority, under long deprivation of the means of grace, had settled into cold indifference. Had the first missionaries settled in some of the localities referred to, and which are only now beginning to be moved to more earnest inquiry, their individual comfort might have been much greater, and their toils unspeakably less; but it would have entirely frustrated, in all probability, the objects of the mission. Into the fields to which they were guided, new settlers rapidly poured, and by speedily filling up the country, facilities were furnished for multiplying stations, and ere long giving a *character* to the body, which otherwise it could not in double the time have attained.

During the first six or seven months the two Fathers above named, had, by occasional conjoint efforts, and individual labors, not only visited an immense tract of country, but gathered together and constituted quite a number of small congregations. These places were scattered over the Gore and London Districts chiefly, and in the Huron tract as far as Goderich. It is not our object to dwell upon the excellent characteristics of the men, but to chronicle somewhat of their labors in "the work of the Lord;" yet it would be wrong, we feel, not now to remark, that He who fits all his instruments for their work, most conspicuously endowed these venerated Fathers for the peculiar task devolving upon them in planting the first churches; and in laying out, so to speak, the fields into which others, coming after them, might with the best hope of success enter upon the work. With a characteristic sagacity and an apostolic disinterestedness they chose at length their respective locations;—Mr. Proudfoot, London, and Mr. Christie, Flamboro' West, not, let it be observed, as places the most promising, but as by far the most favorable *head-quarters* where they might survey the respective districts and most efficiently minister to their wants. Hence around these localities the cause with amazing rapidity gathered strength. Not less remarkable were the