

test faith and good works, and shew a gratitude to God for his abundant mercies, and for the copious dew with which he has refreshed the time honoured fields of our Colonial Zion. A. P.

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REPORT

Of Missionary Labours in Cape Breton.

Notwithstanding the discouraging circumstance that our church at Plaister Cove was burned last year, our people with commendable perseverance, endeavoured to repair the loss by preparing part of the material for a new one.—Owing however to the depressed condition of trade—the failure of the fisheries, and the extreme severity of the past winter—we cannot erect the building this year. The amount contributed by the congregation to the building of the Church which was destroyed, is estimated at upwards of six hundred dollars.

At River Inhabitants our new church is finished outside and is likely to be finished inside in the course of the summer. We hoped to have had it finished last fall, but the early arrival of winter stopped the plastering, and did a little damage to it also, so that we were obliged to defer the finishing of it until this season.

The energy and hearty good-will of our people here cannot be too highly commended. Some of the young men gave from twenty to thirty days gratis, besides contributing large portions of the material. Our adherents at River Dennis—with one or two exceptions—have given liberally towards it; especially when we consider that from the distance between the two places, they cannot expect to attend public worship at River Inhabitants, oftener than once or twice a year.

At West Bay our adherents, who are generally poor and much scattered, suffered much from the failure of the fisheries and grain crops.—Some material was contributed toward repairing the old church; but as we were building so many elsewhere and required all our funds I did not deem it possible in the circumstances to accomplish it.

Last winter I twice visited Loch Lomond and the surrounding districts, spending several weeks there on each visit. Most of the settlements in this quarter are only from twenty-seven to thirty years old. The soil is thin, hard and easily exhausted, and is liable to heavy fogs from seaward, which often do much to injure the grain crops. Consequently few of the inhabitants depend on farming alone for a living. Many of them engage in fishing, or work at the Coal Mines and other public works of the country, leaving their land to be cultivated or not, as the case may be, by their families.

Our adherents in the shore district extending from Lardoise to St. Esprit—a distance of fifteen miles—are anxious to build a church for themselves, and have subscribed a respectable sum for that purpose. In the present state of the country, I could not urge them to proceed further with it.

About twelve miles inland lies the district called Lake Uist, which is settled mostly by natives of the Hebrides. Having no place of worship they set about the building of one, and last winter procured a considerable portion of the material required. I had arranged to visit them in May, but received a letter from one of our trustees there, recommending me not to attempt it, as I could not obtain twenty pounds of hay for my horse in that quarter for as many dollars; and stating further that the frame and a portion

of the other timber required had been placed upon the site—but that most of the lighter material had to be carried on their shoulders from the stump to the open lumber roads, as it was impossible to move their teams through the snow on account of its unusual depth.

During my winter visit I held meetings for public worship, nearly every night, in private houses; and tho' the cold was unusual, and the roads deeply covered with snow, the meetings were well attended, and much earnestness and devotion were manifested.

I expected last summer that a respectable amount would have been raised in each of these districts, towards partly relieving the Colonial Committee, and in consequence delayed applying sooner to the Presbytery for the usual certificate. Last year we were constantly collecting for the churches we were building. Our people are nearly all natives of the West of Scotland, and so have not been accustomed to support ordinances by the building of churches and the paying of Minister's stipend. Moreover, they were without proper congregational organization, and it took some time to get them into even tolerable working order. Owing to the repeal of the Reciprocity Treaty, our coal mines were either stopped altogether or worked on half time. Our fisheries failed sadly, and, to add to the distress, the crop in general has seldom been poorer.—The severity of the winter was very unusual, entailing a scarcity of food for man and beast.—Many cattle died; many persons were in great poverty, and many of the highland districts were in a state of famine. One old man living in a back settlement told me that during winter he had often been forty-eight hours without food. I have too much reason to believe that his statement was strictly true, and that many other persons suffered in a similar manner. Had it not been for the aid received from other parts of the province and from the government, I am convinced that many would have been compelled to abandon their farms and go elsewhere to seek for the means of subsistence.

In these circumstances it will be evident that our people could contribute but little towards the payment of missionary expenses. One or two subscription lists were opened, and small sums were subscribed, amounting in all to sixty dollars. If our churches were finished or nearly so, I believe that one-half the salary of a missionary would be at once contributed.

As it is, all our energies were directed to the building of places of worship; and all the money and labour people could afford, were spent in the effort to accomplish this.

I have reason to conclude that (£40) forty pounds sterling will be contributed towards payment of missionary expenses, by these several districts, during this ensuing year.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES W. FRASER.

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WALLACE.

The Picnic of the Sabbath School in connection with St. Matthew's Kirk, Wallace, came off on Saturday the 11th inst. An invitation was sent and accepted by the village Sabbath School in connection with the Wesleyan Church. It was arranged that the Sabbath Schools of the outlying districts were to join the village one at the Kirk. As the appointed hour drew near waggon loads of neatly dressed children might be seen making their way to the place of meeting. Those