

with fear, pulling them out of the fire ;
bating even the garment spotted by the
flesh."

REPORT OF THE REV GEORGE SUTHERLAND.

*Submitted to the Free Presbytery of Halifax,
29th December, 1852.*

It would occupy too much of our space to give Mr Sutherland's Report in full, but we gladly avail ourselves of the present opportunity of laying the more interesting parts of it before our readers. Having referred to his entering upon his duties in the district by attending a congregational meeting held in the church at Lawrencetown, at which subscriptions for the support of gospel ordinances were received, he says :

"Lawrencetown, as is well known to the Presbytery, is chiefly inhabited by the descendants of Germans, who emigrated to the western parts of this Province during the latter half of last century. There are now residing in the whole district, extending from Cole Harbour to Three-Fathom Harbour, and including the inhabitants of Lake Echo, nearly fifty families. Of these, two or three families profess to belong to each of the denominations of Episcopalians, Methodists, and Baptists, and one to the Roman Catholics. * * * *

"On my arriving among them, one of the first objects I determined to accomplish was, the visiting of all the people in their own houses, in order to converse with every individual in every family as to his interest in the great salvation. The proper discharge of this important duty demanded much courage, wisdom, and patience ; and could reasonably be expected to be attended with success only when accompanied with unceasing supplication to that Spirit who is the sole author of all saving work in the soul. When once accomplished, however, the information thus acquired gave great weight to the exhortations of the pulpit ; as it not only guided to a suitable topic, but also enabled the speaker to feel that a witness existed in the breasts of his hearers, testifying to the truth of his appeals. Two prayer-meetings were also immediately established in suitable localities, in both of which I expounded a passage of Scripture, every week that I resided in the district. In the conducting of one of these, I found a very valuable auxiliary in Mr. Charles Ross, student of the new College, who during the

summer months, taught the Lawrence-town School. Two Sabbath-Schools were also instituted ; and, through the liberality and activity of some of our friends, an excellent Sabbath-School Library was obtained.

"But a short time had elapsed after my coming among them, when several cases of distress of mind, arising from a felt insecurity of state, were brought to my notice. To these, new instances were occasionally added during the whole succeeding season ; so that on each return to the district, which was every third week, I was greatly encouraged to find that the eternal truth of God was not proclaimed in vain—that it seemed to carry conviction with it, persuading the soul that its danger was extreme, and demanded an immediate and important application to Christ—and that in some it appeared to find a soil prepared by the Holy Spirit, a mind willing to comply with its commands. As might be expected, the anxiety existed in different degrees, and was attended with different results. Some who expressed great concern have apparently gone back to the world, while others profess to have found security and peace in the Rock of ages ; and a third party, distrusting themselves, or mistaking the true way of peace, confess their inability to decide in what state they are, but are anxiously seeking salvation. In the month of September, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed, on which occasion several communicated for the first time.—Previous to that occasion, the number on the communion roll was eleven. Of these, one withdrew from attachment to the Establishment, and another, from carelessness or inability of some kind, has not for some length of time attended our services. To the remaining nine bona fide communicants, there were added on the occasion referred to, nineteen others. Besides these, three belonging to this district [Lawrencetown], sat down at the Lord's table at Musquodoboit Harbour in October ; so that there has been an addition this year of twenty-two church members.

"The attention of the people was called during the summer, to the necessity of having better church-accommodation ; and at a congregational meeting on July 29th., it was resolved to erect a new church. The reasons which led to this conclusion were : the insecurity connected with the possession of the present building—its unsuitableness, both in di-