

The few men of taste and culture who have visited these places have been loud in their praise. The late Rev. J. Gunn, on such occasions, has given expression to his emotions in verse.

The mountains in their lofty grandeur seem to be ever hurling a stubborn, silent defiance to the sea; while the angry seas never cease to batter the rocky base of the mountains with sullen persistence, as if determined to bring down their pride.

The first thing to mar the enjoyment of these things is the fact that one is 50 or 60 miles from good roads and travelling conveniences. To atone for this, the settlers along the shore are extremely kind. Of this I have had ample evidence. Horses, boats, and even schooners have often been placed at my command. Then, there are two mails a-week, and telegraphic communication with all parts of the world by the Atlantic Cable, which is landed on Aspy Bay.

At Aspy Bay is perhaps the best fishing station on our coast. The squid caught there during three weeks—the length of the squid season—is valued at \$1200. (Squid is only used for bait.) The value of mackerel, herring cod and salmon caught around Cape North is not less than \$12,000. The soil is very good generally. Some of it is not surpassed anywhere in fertility. But the farming is very indifferent. Draining is scarcely known, while manuring is all but neglected. As a natural consequence the land is being run out. From the fertility of the soil and the abundance of the sea, the inhabitants have discovered that they can live without working very hard and too many of them are content simply to live, neglecting to provide themselves with many comforts within their reach. Of course there are many industrious, thrifty farmers and fishermen. These always prosper.

The sea is their great highway, and St. Pierre is their market. There farm produce commands even a higher price than that at Halifax, while goods are much cheaper. The worst feature of the trade with St. Pierre has been the unlawful traffic in ardent spirits, which has existed for a series of years, and told sadly on the morals as well as the means of the people. This is now, let us hope, forever at an end, as government has lately taken measures to prevent it by establishing a Custom House at Aspy Bay.

These bays are chiefly settled by Scotchmen from the western islands of Scotland, and their descendants. I met one old gentleman who removed thither from Pictou County, and who has been as a light in a dark place for many years. He was married by and converted under the late Dr. McGregor. A few still live whose

hearts were touched with the power of divine truth in Lewes and Skye. These have grieved for long years over the spiritual condition of their children and neighbours, who seemed to have nothing but the traditions of Christianity, and some little respect for the religion of their fathers. But now the prospect is in some degree changed. A gradual improvement has been taking place for several years, until the state of matters is now hopeful and encouraging. Four years ago a church was erected at Aspy Bay, in which the people have since worshipped. Last fall there was a movement made to build a manse, and I have no doubt but a year or two will see it not only completed, but also occupied. Those who take an interest in the welfare of the congregation are waking up to the fact that their progress must be slow indeed without a pastor of their own. In order to get one as soon as possible, they are meantime making the necessary preparations.

As on a former occasion, they rallied around me while among them, and showed me every kindness. They also attended on my ministrations with commendable regularity and attention. The hopes I had entertained of the existence of a deep, powerful work of grace among them were, I found on returning, not fully realized. But enough was manifest to thank God and take courage. Cape North I look upon as one of the most important missionary stations of our church, and I hope it will not be left without supply next summer.

Ingonish, a bay like those I have been describing, but situated nearer St. Ann's Harbour, shared my services with Cape North. Here I spent eight Sabbaths. About 100 families compose the population. Of these 50 or more are Papists. They, with their 40 brethren at Bay S. Lawrence and Cape North, support a priest of their own. Eight of the remaining fifty Protestants are Presbyterians; 12 Church of England; and 30 nominal Wesleyans. All the Protestants, so far as could be expected of people so long neglected, came to my meetings. We must occupy this field as there is no other body to do so. It would be a great addition to the Cape North congregation or to the North Shore of St. Ann's in the event of its being organized into a congregation. Ingonish is about 20 miles distant from the former, and only about 10 from the latter place. Having drawn out my remarks at perhaps too great a length, I would say in conclusion that our cause in the localities of which I have been speaking is in a very promising condition. Labour, faith, prayer and patience, with the promised blessing, will soon make the wilderness blossom as the rose.

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