

IV, OTHER MINISTERIAL LABORS.

While his labors were abundant among his own flock, who esteemed "him highly in love for his work's sake," his occasional ministrations were highly prized as an "ambassador of Christ," and he was frequently solicited to preach on particular occasions in other congregations. On the occasion of attending Synod at Pieton, in 1830, by request he delivered a sermon on "the truth and Divine authority of the Scriptures and the importance of knowing their contents," on behalf of the Pieton Sabbath School Society.—This Institution had been founded principally, we believe, through the energy of Dr McGregor, with the view of establishing Sabbath Schools in the Eastern part of the Province. The Institution was for some time in a most useful and efficient condition. It was the means of directing attention to the subject of introducing Sabbath Schools in various sections of the country, and of increasing their efficiency by the importation of suitable books both for libraries and for teaching. It has now ceased to exist, but not until its work was accomplished by Sabbath School instruction becoming a regular part of congregational effort in that part of the country. It was usual to have a sermon preached annually on its behalf, and it was on the occasion of its anniversary that the discourse was delivered. His subject was the evidences of the divine authority of the Scriptures, from which he urged the importance of those means which are being employed for disseminating the knowledge of its contents. One of the arguments used, viz., the argument for the universality of the deluge from the fossils found in all parts of the world, has not been confirmed by modern science, but otherwise the discourse is an admirable exhibition, in a condensed form, of the grounds on which we believe that we follow "no cunningly devised fable" when we regard the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament as in truth the word of the living God. The clearness and force of his reasonings, and the earnest practical conclusions to which they are applied, render it worthy of the perusal of the advanced student, as well as fit to edify the private christian.

Besides his labors in his own congregation, and such occasional efforts in others, his spirit was stirred within him "by the destitute condition of the regions beyond." The greater portion of New Brunswick was then missionary ground, and much of it without a road deserving the name, but he undertook long and arduous journeys to carry the glad tidings of salvation to those that "dwelt solitarily in the wood." Of his labors in this respect an idea may be gained by some extracts of a journal laid before the Board of Missions of a tour made in the year 1827 to the Northern parts of that Province :—

"*August 16th.*—Left Richibucto for Miramichi at 2 o'clock, P. M., on horse back, passed through a continuation of small settlements of French Roman Catholics for six miles, and crossed three rivers or arms of the Bay in the usual mode of ferrying here, which is as follows:—Two wood or log canoes are floated side by side; across the top or gunwales of these, a number of boards are laid, and upon these boards the horse and passenger are stationed till the whole is paddled over, frequently by a Frenchwoman and her child.

"Here at the end of six miles I left my horse, not being able on account of the state of the road to use him farther, and took the woods on foot. Travelled six or seven miles without a house, the greater part of the way through a deep cedar swamp, and arrived at Kouchibouquach river, (a station at which I preach six or seven times annually) at 7 o'clock.