

we know neither the day nor the hour, far less the year, wherein the son of man cometh. Let us pause at this stage of our journey through life, and consider whether we are on the right path, and are progressing heavenward.

And finally, let us take care not to hurry into a New Year without serious thought, and earnest prayer, and quiet surrender of ourselves to do the will of God.

P. G.

DEPUTATION TO CAPE BRETON.

Your deputation beg to report that according to appointment they proceeded to Cape Breton and administered the sacrament of the Lord's Supper at River Inhabitants on the 23rd of September. Notwithstanding the somewhat unfavourable weather the attendance was good. The services were conducted in both languages; and the worshippers comported themselves with that reverential and devout demeanour which is characteristic of the Scottish Highlanders. Four new communicants were received into the fellowship of the Church, and several infants were baptized. On Monday after service Mr. Stewart returned to Port Hawkesbury and arrived at home next morning. Four remaining delegates proceeded to River Dennis and visited some aged and sick folk who were unable to come to church. Leaving River Dennis we went to Grand Anse where we preached and administered baptism.

On Sabbath the 30th, we preached in the Kirk at Lochside, Cape Breton Co., some fifty or sixty miles inland from the Strait. This energetic and loyal congregation, in the absence of services from our own church have had several visits from the Rev. Donald Sutherland, of Gabarus, well known in this county, who preached to them on various occasions. They spoke of him in terms of high regard, and expressed to us their appreciation of his courtesy and labours among them, as they have no prospect of securing the services of a missionary just now, and as they are not able to pay in full for service, they suggested that this Presbytery be asked to grant them from the funds of the Home Mission some assistance to enable them to pay for regular

monthly service from the Rev. Mr. Sutherland. Being well acquainted with their circumstances, we heartily assented to their suggestion, and now hereby beg respectfully to urge the matter upon the favourable consideration of this court.

Last year this congregation petitioned the Colonial Committee for a grant of \$200 to enable them to finish their church. To this application no reply has as yet been received. We have no doubt but that the correspondence was mislaid and that were the matter again brought to the notice of the colonial committee, that amount would immediately be granted. The building is deeded to the Church of Scotland and has already cost some \$1400 dollars. When we state that the greater part of that sum was contributed by about twenty-five families, their liberality and zeal need no commendation from any one. Even as it stands at present their church is a monument displaying their good taste, their zeal for religion, and their loyalty to the church with which they are connected.

The demon of religious discord has long enough had possession of Cape Breton; but the fact that the minister of Gabarus should be willing to preach to a Kirk congregation and that they should so gladly welcome him, speaks well for him and them; and we look upon it as an augury of better days in store for a country in which the poisonous fruit of religious enmity is so rife, and which for more than a quarter of a century has been baptized in religious strife, vituperation, and turmoil. The good people of Gabarus, born and reared in the Church of Scotland, stretch forth a helping hand to assist their neighbors. This is the Spirit of the Gospel; and when the laity of the country are filled with this spirit, the clergy will no longer be encouraged to attempt to aggrandize themselves by developing bigotry and ecclesiastical malignity.

Returning to River Inhabitants, we addressed a prayer meeting during the week and administered baptism. On the following sabbath we preached in both languages to a fair congregation—this bringing our three weeks labour to a close.

Respectfully Submitted.

JAMES W. FRASER.