

Canaan Station, I. C. R., about nineteen miles north of Moncton, and at our services here it has been my privilege and joy to hear an aged man, now eighty-four, at the close of a cottage prayer meeting appeal for the first time for mercy, at the cross. May the God of all grace heal his soul, and may this be the beginning of better days in Canaan Station.

We should not get discouraged with our scattered flock when we look on others right among us who have had far greater opportunities and yet their church is almost asleep. I pray God that the flood-gate of His divine love may be opened on the Baptist cause, as it is His cause, and may we believe that He is able to take care of that we have committed to His charge.

SHEDIAE.

The services of Elder Corey have been retained during the year just closed. Our cause here has had much to contend against. Surrounded by a large body of French Romanists and also by various Protestant communities, with a constant removals from among our own congregation, it has been difficult to maintain aggressive work in Shediac and its vicinity. From this point to Cape Tormentine there is however much ground that ought to be occupied and the board is hopeful that before long we may be able to station a regular missionary in this part.

CALHOUN'S, WEST CO.

This station has been supplied by the pastor of Dorchester, assisted by a small grant from the board. Some other points near by also require attention but as yet no satisfactory arrangement of the interests has been effected. Bro. Burgess reports: "Two families have of late removed from the field, both Baptist. There are some persons who are gradually coming to our views, but in my enclosed report I have not included them, as I wish to state fairly the condition of the field. Our services have been regularly continued and the only meetings held here are those conducted by the Baptists. The people attend regularly and give the best of attention to the preaching of the gospel. I am hopeful that in the near future some will identify themselves with us by baptism. I plan to hold some special services soon."

CAPE TORMENTINE

In the early part of the convention year the board gave assistance to a student of Acadia who spent his vacation supplying Cape Tormentine and Cadman's Corner. An interesting cluster of settlements lies within reach of the missionary stationed here and we are greatly desirous of securing a permanent laborer. Bro. Colpitts left the work on the first of November last, returning to his studies. He reported a good Sabbath school and a resident church membership of forty-two.

UPPER CAPE AND PORT ELGIN.

During the part of the convention year falling in 1898 Rev. J. W. Gardner was assisted by our board with a grant of \$50.00. The original grant of \$100.00 by the advice of Bro. Colpitts and others familiar with the field was assigned for Cape Tormentine, and Upper Cape under one pastor, but as a different arrangement was entered into by the churches \$50.00 was paid to Bro. Gardner and a portion to Bro. Colpitts for the time he spent on his part of the field. The plan preferred by the board however was to have united Cape Tormentine, Cadman's, Upper Cape and Bayside under the care of one man, who should reside if possible at Cape Tormentine.

Port Elgin, with several small interests adjoining to the westward, affords ample ground for another man, and with some help for a few years ought in time to make a self-sustaining field. The division suggested by us has hitherto been hindered by various causes, but we hope in time better counsels will prevail and all the sections will be attended to as they very much need.

Pastor Bynon has had great reason for encouragement and Baptist affairs here are looking up. In his report Bro. Bynon says we have a loyal and true band about us. I have arranged to hold services in Black River, three miles from Coleraine, and also at Hardingville. Our congregations at Hills-

dale were the largest during the past winter we have yet had. Our Sabbath Schools are good; our B. V. F. U. better, and our prayer meetings best. We have also put extensive repairs on our church buildings. Hillsdale edifice is now all that heart could desire. We have decided to erect a building of our own at Coleraine. I feel that I must remain here until this is completed."

TABERNACLE, ST. JOHN.

Rev. W. J. Halse resigned the pastorate of this church in October last, and during the greater part of the year since that time the congregation has been supplied by different brethren. Not long since the church called Bro. P. J. Stackhouse, a recent graduate of Acadia, who is at present ministering acceptably to the people worshipping here. Bro. Stackhouse gives promise of being a successful winner of souls for his Lord and Master, and we hope for the best results from the union now consummated.

JERUSALEM.

During part of the convention year just closed Bro. W. E. Carpenter, licentiate, was stationed on this field. Since his removal in December last the board has not granted any further assistance owing to the fact that its hands were already overlaid. Rev. W. J. Gordon, pastor in Kars, has of late been caring for the interests here in connection with his work across the river. The board is of opinion however that a man should be stationed on the west side to give that amount of attention which those communities naturally require. For the present however this seems beyond our reach.

KESWICK.

The First and Second Keswick churches have again been assisted during the present year. Rev. George Howard has taken these sections in connection with the Macnaquac field, and the reports of the work have been most encouraging. Previous to Bro. Howard's pastorate our cause at Keswick had lost much ground, chiefly by inroads made by teachers of false doctrine, but of late we are pleased to be able to report a general spiritual quickening and increasing congregations. Bro. Howard's preaching has attracted many hitherto hostile to Baptist views and our interests there seem now in a fair way of recovery, giving promise in the near future of self-support and assured success.

CARDIGAN.

Rev. P. O. Rees occupied this ground for a part of the year having a station also at Woodland. He reported twenty-five families as favouring our doctrines in the communities visited by him. The membership is small and weak financially. Hitherto we have not been able to unite this field with any others and since Bro. Reid's removal it has been pastorless.

DOAKTOWN.

The work continues to be well sustained. Preaching services have been well attended at Upper and Lower Ludlow, Doaktown, New Salem, Blackville, Dunphy's and Morehouse. The distance from the extreme western limits to the eastern stations is unusually great, and necessitates much driving and exposure. Pastor King reports a deep interest in the meetings recently held, and several have been added to the churches by baptism. The Sabbath school work also presents many encouraging features.

ANDOVER.

For some time this church has been pastorless, and Advents and others improved the opportunity to draw our members away. By advice of the board Bro. R. W. Demmings, a student of Acadia, spent the summer on the field and succeeded in recovering much of what had been lost. Our missionary reports: "God has been very good to us. The services are well attended and our members are increasing. Adventism has died out, except in one home. Another denomination has managed to close the house at Grand Falls against the Baptists, but if we can get a place for service I purpose visiting the little church in that place."

Prosperity and growth have again been manifest this year in our work on the Upper Tobique. Bro. D. F. Millin continues to

care for this extensive field which now comprises the following stations; Foster Cove, Birch Ridge, Upper Sisson Ridge, Sisson Ridge, Linton Corner, Riley Brook, and Ox Bow. He reports as follows: "I began my labors here again in January of the present year. I feel the Lord has still a work for me to do on the Tobique. I am holding five meetings weekly at different stations, and our people have got a good hold hereabouts. Our numbers are small and our people can not do much financially. We are still some in debt on our meeting house dedicated last winter, and we are also striving to finish our other house at Birch Ridge. I hope the Lord will guide us in the path of duty."

GRAND FALLS.

Rev. N. P. Gross was stationed here until May of the present year when he resigned to take the pastorate of the Newcastle churches, Queens County. During the present summer Grand Falls has been connected with Andover. Many difficulties still surround the work, yet we do not despair.

GENERAL MISSIONARIES.

Three of these have been employed by the board; Bro. Young until January of the present year, and Bro. Patterson since July 1st, both in general work; also Bro. Hughes was appointed to supply pastorless churches and to induce them when ever possible to maintain the regular ministry of the word.

Bro. Young labored chiefly on the Upper St. John and on the Tobique. At the latter field he aided materially in the erection of a house of worship, assisting Bro. Millin also in special work.

Bro. Patterson conducted revivals in the vicinity of Cumberland Bay where several were baptized. Afterwards in response to a call from Gloucester County he spent some time in Bathurst and adjoining communities where a few Baptists are found. In his report concerning this visit he says: "Some of our people here are enthusiastic workers, while others are interested but not inclined to do much personal labor. They seem anxious to have work done permanently. I found in Bathurst and vicinity eight Baptist church members. There are also several others who if a church was formed would probably unite with us. At Belledune, twenty miles north, there are six Baptist families who worship in a church edifice of their own. The Campbellton pastor has been giving them a service every Wednesday evening."

Since leaving Bathurst Bro. Patterson has spent several weeks in special work at Hopewell, where a deep interest has been manifested in the meetings.

COLPORTAGE.

After much agitation and many expressions of opinion at associations and elsewhere emphasizing the need of Colportage work the board is able to report a successful venture in this important service. Last December Bro. D. A. Branscombe who was then employed by another society was induced to take an engagement with us, and since that time has been actively employed in selling books, distributing tracts and other Christian literature, and visiting various settlements destitute of religious services. He has had good success in sales of books in the homes and has also supplied several libraries to Sabbath schools. The opening for this work seems encouraging, and the board is anxious to continue it during the coming year.

A Proposed Change.

At the Maritime Convention held at Fredericton a conference was called composed of several of the brethren of both conventions to consider the possibility of uniting the work of the Maritime Committee and that carried on by our board. The majority of those present inclined to the view that if a board of eighteen were appointed, consisting of six from each association, that both the committee and the present board could be induced to hand over their work to such new organization which would thus be independent of either convention. This proposal was accepted by the maritime body and is to be submitted to the present session of the New Brunswick Convention.

Let us hope that whatever is done shall be for the promotion of the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.