

Home Missions.

Rev. T. Cumming's Report of Mission to Eastern Shore.

To the Reverend the Presbytery of Halifax:

Allow me to submit to you a brief account of my mission to the congregation of Sheet Harbour and adjacent localities.—And I do so under the growing conviction that neither the place nor the people are as well known to our church as they should be—as they deserve to be.

For many years—as you are aware—this was the scene of the abundant labours of one of the fathers of our church—the venerable Mr. Sprott. The brave old soldier of the cross is now about to lay aside his armour and put on his crown; but his name shall be long remembered, and his memory fondly cherished by persons of all creeds and characters on this Eastern Shore.

During the past six years Mr. Waddell has laboured faithfully in this congregation; with what success shall be fully known when the knell of doom shall summon pastor and people and all of us to the bar of final account. Mr. W. has taken a prominent part in the cause of total abstinence and has given a new impetus to religious and secular education throughout the entire community. The rising generation are particularly indebted to him for his indefatigable efforts in establishing day schools and Sabbath schools in the various sections of his charge, and in procuring libraries for their special benefit.

I preached two Sabbaths in Sheet Harbour, two in Tangier and Pope's Harbour, and one in Quoddy and Moser's River. I had also evening services at Taylor's Head and at Marie Joseph. In all those places the congregations were large and remarkably attentive. Every building in which I preached was filled to its utmost capacity. Indeed on several occasions I had scarcely standing room left me.

The weekly Bible class in the Sheet Harbour section of the congregation is largely attended. I conducted it on two occasions, and was greatly delighted with the numbers who attend, and with the deep interest ma-

nifested. The last evening I was with them there were between 60 and 70 young persons present. I had also the pleasure of meeting twice with the Bible class which is held at Pope's Harbour. Though there are only seven or eight Presbyterian families in the district, the class would compare favourably in numbers and intelligence with those of our largest congregations. I am becoming more impressed every day of my life with the utility of this noble institution for the instruction of our young people in the great truths of the infallible text-book.

By appointment of your Presbytery the pastor of Musquodoboit dispensed the Lord's Supper at Sheet Harbour during my visit. Five persons joined the church on the occasion. I had satisfactory religious conversation with four of them prior to their doing so. I also baptized seven children with the concurrence of the only elder who is at present resident in Sheet Harbour. In each case one or both of the parents were members of the church.

I may be allowed a few remarks of a general character. Contrary to my previous impressions, the congregation is quite a large one. In the Sheet Harbour section alone there are between 40 and 50 Presbyterian families. It is not so easy to state the precise number in the other sections, as there are many of the families that have no formal connexion with any church. But, as I have already mentioned, large congregations assemble in all these places, and a fair proportion of them at least, have expressed their decided preference for Presbyterianism.

The field of labour is very hopeful and encouraging, but I must not conceal the fact that it is a trying one in many respects. With Mr. Waddell's increasing years and failing health it would be too much to expect that he could do all the work of such a congregation. It would require Herculean strength and apostolic zeal to cultivate it thoroughly. The minister who enters upon it need not expect to taste the sweets of the *otium cum dignitate* which the Latin bard sings of. And, what is worse, so much attention must be given to mission work,