

I was instructed by the Executive to proceed as soon as possible to

#### STRATFORD.

The church in this place has been closed since the resignation of the former pastor, some two months ago; and, seemed for some time likely to remain closed. The membership is reduced to about a score. The trustees had withdrawn, and there was not even a deacon left in the church. The debt on the property amounts to about *five thousand dollars*, besides some five hundred dollars arrears of interest. But there is one of the most magnificent church edifices in the district, a parsonage second to no other, and a valuable building lot. The town of Stratford is some sixty miles west of Toronto, professes to have a population of eight thousand, and is not over churchied. The Grand Trunk has extensive works here. Besides, it is situated in the midst of a rich agricultural country. There is certainly room, and there are good prospects for, a Congregational church.

The friends came together and most harmoniously agreed to re-open the church, and with assistance from the Missionary Society for a time, carry on this work. The trustees, and most of the old supporters of the cause, were in their places on the day of re-opening, last Sunday in January. Congregations numbering 120 and 140 were in attendance. The following evening the church met, and elected deacons and other officers for the year. They agreed to ask neighbouring ministers to supply the pulpit till the college closes, when they hope to get an advanced student during vacation, after which they expect to be in a position to extend a call to a suitable pastor. I have no inclination to indulge in any reflections or recriminations regarding the downfall of the Stratford church, much as I feel on the subject. All have agreed that no good can come from unearthing the past. So let it remain. Let all concerned do better in the future, and they may yet redeem the time.

#### CHURCH HILL

is a country charge, nine miles from Georgetown, two from Acton station on the Grand Trunk. Here I found a good congregation in a comfortable place of worship. Though the night was extremely cold we had quite an enthusiastic meeting. Collection much larger than last year. The Rev. G. Robertson, from Georgetown, supplies this congregation at present. The friends are well pleased with this arrangement. But the Georgetown people do not like it quite so well, believing that the labour is too much for their esteemed young minister. I think as they do on this matter.

#### CALEDON, SOUTH

is twelve miles further in the country, in the direction of Orangeville, I think. This church is also vacant, and has been for some time. We had a large congre-

gation and liberal collection. I was assisted by the Rev. G. Robertson.

We have some strong men connected with our congregation in this place. It is wrong to leave them so long without a pastor. There is a comfortable parsonage, and about an acre of garden attached to the church. This place and Church Hill could be worked together. But the people say they want a man who will preach the Gospel, and attend to their *spiritual necessities*. Can such a man be found for these fields? I think so.

#### ALTON

is a thriving village within five miles of Orangeville, with two lines of railway passing it. There are several manufactories in the place, and a growing population, and a rich country surrounding. Since their beautiful new church was burned, over twelve months ago, the congregation has been scattered, as sheep without a shepherd. Our meeting was held in the Methodist church, the pastor, with the Rev. W. Robertson, from Georgetown, taking part. We have quite a number of well-to-do farmers connected with our cause, who are very anxious to have a pastor. The old church can be fitted up as a temporary meeting place, and the burned church may be rebuilt after a time. But a missionary is required for this field at once, not only to look after our own congregation, but to assist combatting the abounding vice and infidelity of the village.

#### NORTH ERIN

is five miles distant. We reached this place with great difficulty, owing to the unusually large fall of snow. The roads were in most parts quite impassable. Our meeting was small. Here there is a very neat and comfortable country church, and a good Sunday school. It has formed part of the Alton field, hence it has been without preaching services for over a year. Orangeville, Alton, and North Erin should be worked by one man, and would afford a most promising field of missionary labour.

#### TORONTO

I spent one Sabbath in this beautiful city, having the opportunity of presenting the claims of the Society in the morning before the

#### NORTHERN CHURCH.

Though the weather and the walking were most unpropitious, there was a large congregation. The appropriations for our Missionary Society have been made for the present year, and amount to double that of last. Judging from the method adopted to secure systematic giving to all our denominational interests, and the hearty manner in which both the pastor and deacons recommend our work, I imagine that coming years will witness increasing liberality. There are marked indications of sure growth, and steady progress here.