

never heard Divine service since they came to the country; or if it chance that a travelling Missionary makes his appearance, he is a stranger whom they may never see again, and whom they cannot send for in the hour of misfortune, or of death. In fine, nothing happens for months, nay for years, in many of our townships, to remind the Inhabitants of the existence of the Church of God.

Moreover our people are so dispersed over the whole face of the Colony, that where there is no town, or where the population is not dense, it is very difficult to collect a tolerable Congregation;—the individuals have so far to come, and the roads are generally so bad.

By the last Census, the Members of the Church are allowed to be 128,897, out of 496,055, the whole population of Canada West,—or little more than one fourth, spread over a Country nearly equal to Great Britain. I say allowed, because we have good reason to believe that the number is much below the truth. Many of the persons employed to take the population, are hostile to the Church of England, and delight in diminishing her numbers. I am therefore disposed to think, from observation, and the returns of certain places known to be correct, that our people are nearer one-third than one-fourth of the population of the Diocese. They are, nevertheless, as we have already remarked, so dispersed as to render it exceedingly difficult to supply them with religious instruction, unless we had many more Clergymen than would be sufficient were they concentrated. Our people are not only thus dispersed over a vast surface, but they labour under the further disadvantage of being mixed up with hostile sects, and hence many of them never having witnessed the ministrations of the Church, fall away to the Dissenters rather than attend to no divine worship. It is, indeed, true that numbers of them return when a Clergyman is sent to reside among them. But the delay, which is frequently long, is attended with the most pernicious effects; for although many continue long to cherish their attachment for the Church, and perhaps