

fall of snow, and the roads were all but impassable. However, on my arrival, I was agreeably surprised to see a well-filled church, notwithstanding that some of them had to travel six or seven miles through the deep snow. If we can judge of their earnestness from their determination to attend upon religious services under unfavourable circumstances, I think we may place the people of Earltown among the very first. They are deserving (I need not say of commendation, because it is their duty) at least of imitation.

On January 5rd I preached at Roger's Hill. The day was all that could be desired, as far as weather was concerned, but the attendance was very small,—in fact, quite disheartening, did I not know that it was owing to a rumour spread throughout the congregation that I was to have been there on the previous Sabbath, when a number of people assembled, and of course were disappointed. How these rumours originated is most mysterious. To remedy such mistakes I would strongly recommend the members, not only of this congregation, but of others, to get our *Church Record*. Really I must acknowledge my astonishment that so very small a number of our *Church Records* find their way to the homes of those who profess to be such thorough Kirkmen: more especially in the case of those vacant congregations that have not the same opportunity of knowing the church news which the *Record* would supply. It is very cheap. Fifty cents per annum is surely not much. And if a club of ten is formed, eleven copies will be sent, making it still cheaper. I feel confident that church members spending so small a sum, for such a purpose, would not grudge it at the end of the year—neither would they miss it.

January 10th I preached at Barney's River. Here, as usual, there was a good attendance. From the attitude the members of this congregation assume, we may infer that they are very much in earnest,—evidently making it a delight and a matter of conscience to do all they can in the way of religious improvement. They not only show this by their church-going habits, but, in a very marked degree, by their liberality in responding to calls made upon them in a pecuniary point of view. This may be looked upon as a mercenary idea by some; nevertheless it shows what the Barney's River people are willing to do. My journey to Barney's River, on this occasion, was a most unpleasant one, having been overtaken by a terrible rainstorm. I had to travel about twelve miles on the Sabbath morning, the first four of which I performed with comparative ease, having my horse and sleigh. When I started in the morning, the rain was just beginning to fall, and I hadn't been half a mile on my way when down it came in perfect torrents. The first three miles I got over very rapidly, but by this time the snow, which in many places was five or six feet deep, was getting soft, and my poor horse plunged through it with great difficulty. At length a kind man, who knew the road I had to traverse better than I did, came after me, and said it was utter madness for me attempting to take my horse any further. And so, most reluctantly, I had to leave him behind. There was no other alternative now, and I must trudge along on foot—most gloomy prospect!—eight long miles to the church, and these eight miles I have to walk in two hours. On ordinary occasions and with good roads I should have enjoyed it, but as it was, under a regular pour of rain, sinking a foot or more at each step, holding a huge umbrella over my head, and the dense forest on all sides, it was anything but agreeable. But all things come to an end; so did my unpleasant tramp. After two hours hard struggling, I arrived at my destination, aching badly from head to foot, and dripping wet. In such a sad plight, I need not say how unfit I felt to ascend the pulpit. However, after experiencing the kindness of my friend, Adam McKenzie, Esq., I performed my duties with greater ease than I anticipated.

On January 31st, I preached at Lochaber. I was very much delighted with my former visit to Lochaber, and this one served but to intensify my delight. In natural beauty it is surpassed by no place that I have yet seen in the