

Other fragmentary sects aggregating from 50,000 to 100,000.

The Presbyterian Churches have upwards of fifty agents in this field. Their work commenced in 1853, and it has prospered greatly. The importance of the field is thus described:—

"A single, narrow strip, along the western coast of Asia, a hundred miles long by fifty broad, hardly touching Carmel on the south, and not reaching Antioch on the north, skirted by the Mediterranean on the west, and the plain of Coelestria on the east; its one commanding feature the range of "goodly Lebanon," with its bald or snowy summits, its deep valleys and wild gorges, its terraced sides, its gushing fountains, its groves of olive, mulberry and fig, pine, cedar, and oak, its vineyards and grain, fertile plains at its feet, villages dotting its slopes and crags, a few cities on the shore, a climate unrivalled in the Orient, a population, in numbers, less than a million souls, diverse in origin and religion, but speaking one rich, nervous, sonorous tongue—generally vigorous in frame, with intellects keen, subtle and inquisitive—in character proud, conceited, independent, trained to deception by centuries of civil and ecclesiastical tyranny; universally greedy of money; in a sense, industrious, but for the most part, poor, ignorant, superstitious, with few bonds in common; the prey of fierce sectarianism, foreign political intrigue, and a feebly enlightened government; these are the salient facts respecting the locality and people of the Syria Mission.

"But this field, comparatively so limited in extent and population, is providentially so situated that it may become the base for missionary operations, the most comprehensive and important. It lies in the immediate region once selected as the point from which the tidings of salvation should go forth to the world. It is the natural centre for the sixty millions who speak the Arabic language, and the sixty millions more who read it. Copies of the Word of God have already gone from its mission press to tribes in the heart of Africa, and to the Arabic-speaking population in China. Men who have drawn their birth and vigor from Lebanon when once enlightened, consecrated and trained, will be the most efficient agents to carry the doctrine and influences of the gospel to the vast multitudes using their own tongue.

"It was no ordinary Providence, therefore, that led to the choice of this field for missionary effort; the blessing of God has been evident throughout the half century of its changeable history, and now that it has been confided with the accumulated wealth

of precious memories, dearly bought experience, wide reputation and organized facilities, to the support and direction of the re-united Presbyterian Church, we believe a new impulse is to be given to the prosecution of its appointed work."

## Home Mission.

### Report of Mr. John Murray.

While our Foreign Missions are engrossing the thoughts, and interesting so many of your readers, permit me to turn attention to our Home Mission, of which I have been an Agent for the past summer. As on a previous year, Cape North was the scene of my labour.

Being, as it is, the North-eastern outpost of our church in the Lower Provinces, we must all feel more or less interested in Cape North. And therefore it may not be out of place to make some general statements that will help to clear our vague conceptions of this land's end.

In this region, embracing Aspy Bay, Bay St. Lawrence, and Grandance, all sections of the Cape North congregation, there are not less than 150 families. Of these 110 are nominally, at least, in connection with our church, and the remaining 40 families are Romanists.

The children of Rome have stated services by Father F——, while our people get only such supply as is afforded by catechists. But I trust matters may not be long in this condition.

These people live among rugged mountains than which I have yet to see any more grand. From their lofty summits, on a clear autumn day, the coast of Newfoundland can be faintly seen on the horizon at a distance of eighty miles across the water.

The places I have mentioned are vast amphitheatres looking out to the open sea, over beautiful bays. From the head of these bays the land as it recedes, ascends gently at first for some distance, and then rises precipitously into lofty wood-covered ridges of an elliptical form, shutting out every prospect but their own dark-green sides, the blue sea in front and the azure sky overhead. On this rising ground the farmers and fishermen have built their homes. The wind in the mountain gorges and the sea breaking on the beach, or roaring in its fury in the bay, afford their perpetual music.

Here are combined all the elements that fascinate the tourist while standing before the majesty of nature in places of world-wide fame.