

by the teacher, many of the books will never be read, and many more never be comprehended. Here and there may be discovered a young mind so earnest in the pursuit of knowledge as to read with eager attention and searching intelligence, every book that falls in its way. But most children demand careful oversight and training in order to their acquirement of a taste for reading. If not examined by the teacher and constrained to exert their mental powers, they will return the book given them for perusal, without having done more than glanced at the pictures it may contain, and read in a hasty manner a few passages that may have caught the eye. It should be the constant practice, therefore, of the teacher to demand from each pupil some account of the contents of the volume lent him to read, and to insist on his preparing himself for such an examination.— This may be done without consuming much time, and the advantages to be derived from it are its most pressing recommendation.— The scholar will be careful to read a book on which he knows he will be questioned when he returns it; and he will thereby acquire the habit of reading with close attention.

S. ELDER.

Fredericton, May 29, 1849.

COLPORTEUR REPORT.

[EMBRACING FIFTEEN MONTHS SERVICE.]

To the Colporteur Committee of the New-Brunswick Baptist Association.

Before resuming my labours, and in hope of commending this important agency to the prayers and support of the churches, I would respectfully submit a Report of my labours thus far, though from the difficulty of keeping a Journal while moving so rapidly from house to house, my account is but imperfect. The imperfection however is not in exaggeration. What I now submit was carefully minuted down, but meetings, visits, exhortations and prayers, and much labour has not been recorded, and is not herein reported.

I commenced my labours as Colporteur on the 20th September, 1847, spending my first nine months therein between my residence in Johnston and the town of Saint Andrews, travelling as far as Fredericton on the northwest, and Sussex, on the southeast, in which sections I visited Studholm, Springfield, Norton, Hampton, Upham, Saint Martins, Saint John, Carleton, Dipper Harbour, Pennfield, Saint George, Saint Patrick, Saint Stephen, Greenwich, the Harvey Settlement, Fredericton, Maugerville, Canning, Jemseg, Wickham, and so returned home. I find the number of settlements visited to be 74,—distributed 4,432 pages tracts, sold 1,164 volumes, granted 22 volumes, obtained 28 subscribers to the Christian Visitor and Am. Messenger, addressed 28 congregations in the way of exhortation. I attended 15 prayer-meetings, 11 conferences, and heard 27 sermons. I supplied 4 destitute families with the Word of God, visited and conversed with 27 Catholic families, endeavoured to pray with 121 families, reasoned from God's word and Christian experience with 213, and find the whole number of families visited 780. In this populous part of our Province I found one third of our churches without Sabbath Schools, and if 100 volumes constituted a library taking the families generally with all their books together not more than five families out of a hundred would possess a library. One third of all the settlements visited were destitute of regular preaching on the Sabbath; some have preaching once a fortnight, others once a month, some once in three months, and some never. Even a number of our churches have no pastoral labour, but depend on occasional visits of the Ministers.

Notwithstanding our Catholic inhabitants have so much opposition to Protestantism I found some that would listen to the Colporteur. One to whom I read the word of God, and a tract declared himself surprised to hear such convincing arguments. I prayed with him, pointed him to Jesus Christ for justification, and left him with tears in his eyes promising to call on him again.

In a district in Queen's County I visited every family and conversed with them upon the several religious duties devolving upon them, distributing Tracts in every house, and selling what volumes I could. Shortly after I returned and found their disposition for reading much increased; the minister assured me that there was far more reading performed and a deeper seriousness on the minds of many. Having no Sabbath-school I formed one which was well sustained until last winter. God has since blessed the preaching of

the gospel to them, and 14 have lately united with the church, a number of whom were Sabbath scholars, and upon my returning to them this spring, at the request of some of the scholars, I again organized the school with prospects of a number who are anxiously inquiring their way, speedily uniting to the church of God. On my visit to Saint Martins last fall I was deeply interested with a young Miss who prevailed upon her father to purchase a library of 50 volumes for her own perusal and, Elder Jackson informs us that she has read them all over three or four times.— Others there took a kindly interest in the work.

On July the 1st, I journeyed to Moncton, visiting the Millstream, Petitcodiac, the French Settlement, Dorchester, and the Cape, Sackville, Point de Bute and Migue; Bay Verte and Amherst Shore, and so to Tignish, Pugwash, River Philip and Amherst in Nova-Scotia, and returning through Salisbury, I visited the Butternut Ridge, New Canan, and from thence through Smith's Creek. I travelled through Ward's Creek to the Shepody road to Upham, and to Saint Martins, and returned to my family, completing that route about the 8th November last.

In these four months I visited 28 settlements, distributed 350 pages Tracts, sold 740 volumes, granted 7, obtained 2 subscribers to the Visitor, spoke in God's cause in 17 meetings, attended 6 prayer-meetings, heard 12 sermons, sat in 4 conferences, supplied 2 destitute families with the Bible, visited 20 Catholic families with whom I had conversation upon religious subjects, called at the door of others to sell Books and Tracts, prayed with 81 families, conversed with 175 families, and find the whole number visited about 315 families.

On this tour I met with many who had a strong desire to facilitate the enterprise, and was aided in my labours by some of the Ministers of the gospel. I expect to hear of direct conversions from the books purchased, and the tracts granted. I found the French Roman Catholics possessed of far less prejudice and superstition than the Irish Catholics. They will receive tracts, and are anxious to get our versions of the Scriptures in their own tongue, while with us, the Irish Catholics will neither receive a tract nor listen to any advance that may be made towards them for their spiritual good.

One French Catholic gave me a clear evidence of his saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, and expressed himself desirous to obtain a Testament in order to read it to his fellows, and declared himself willing to bear the resentment of those that should oppose him for the reason that Christ Jesus had loved him when in the days of his opposition to the truth.

In this City a Catholic lately was persuaded to attend a Protestant place of worship, and take a couple of numbers of the Visitor to read from one of our sisters, and in calling on him, they expressed their unwillingness to make any more intimacy with Protestants, owing to the disgrace that had already fallen upon their family by this indiscretion, it having been frequently thrown up to them, and that as we loved to delude people we were disliked by them. O, how great the contrast between them and the French people who kindly thanked me for calling, and received tracts very readily.

In the month of November last I visited this City, Portland, Indian Town and Carleton, sold 537 volumes, distributed about 2,000 pages tracts, found it very difficult to obtain access to the families here, to make the enterprise known owing to my being met at the door by the servants generally, nevertheless I trust the books sold and the tracts distributed will have the desired effect. I was often met with: "I have more books than I read," and to such I desired to say, that it was their duty to give some of their unused volumes to form Sabbath-school libraries where the people are too poor to purchase the same.

On December 25th, I again reached home. I spent a week for the Visitor endeavouring to collect subscriptions, visited Long Creek, English Settlement, and 1st and 2nd Wickham. The failure of the crops having left the people much depressed, I found many inclined to relinquish the paper. Detained in the country owing to heavy snows until January 24th, when I reached this City, for Nova-Scotia, reached Digby on January 31st, and commenced my sales with good success for the present depressed condition of affairs, visited Hillsborough, Bear River, Clements, and the settlements adjacent, with Annapolis,

Bridgetown, Paradise, Lawrencetown, Nictaux, Aylesford, Pleasant Valley, Cornwallis, Kentville, and Horton, and returned to Annapolis the last of April, making three months in this tour. I visited 23 settlements, distributed 300 pages tracts, sold 642 volumes granted 4 Bibles and 12 small books, obtained in the distance of twenty miles 142 subscribers to Am. Messenger, addressed 25 meetings, attended 7 prayer-meetings, visited 12 Catholic families, a number of families prayed with not kept account of, whole number of families visited 215. In my tour in Nova-Scotia I met with a kind reception, and many were helpers of my work. When the sleighing ceased, being without a waggon, I accepted the invitation of my brethren to labour in their meetings for a fortnight, they meeting the amount of my salary by collections—felt in so doing I was relieving the Committee from all expense and while it was impossible for me to travel owing to the state of the roads, and the Lord having poured out his blessing on my labours, I considered I should have the concurrence of all the friends of Zion. Sold during this period books for which I made no charge to the Committee.

I find therefore that I have visited 125 settlements; distributed 5032 pages tracts; sold and granted 3,128 volumes, 343 volumes being the Scriptures; besides maps, cards, and plates for Sabbath Schools, Stationary, &c. Obtained 172 subscribers to religious periodicals; addressed 60 meetings; attended 28 prayer-meetings, 39 sermons, 2 enquiry and 19 conference meetings; visited 59 Catholic families; prayed with 202; conversed with 408 families, and visited in all 1310 families. I have alluded to the great scarcity of religious instruction in some districts, where if every reasonable exertion was put forth by the inhabitants they could not sustain the ministry. Shall not the Colporteur be sent to those with sermons, tracts and religious books to call up within themselves an anxiety for their souls? and also to form Sabbath-schools for the benefit of the rising generation? Had we means to put libraries within their reach this might be effected in almost every settlement. Now are we in duty bound while we enjoy the gospel every Sabbath to endeavour to send instruction to those destitute places, and as they may be benefited by the Colportage at but little expense, let this be applied as early as possible. And provided the Colporteur could employ sufficient time to reach every family without merely calling on what few may be by the highway side, much might be accomplished to what has been, and the visit of the Colporteur be no longer viewed as that of a trading man, but of one that watched for their souls.

Earnestly requesting the sympathies and prayers of God's people, I submit myself to further devotion in the Colportage.

J. V. TABOR, Colporteur.

St. John, N. B. May 31st, 1849.

Missionary Intelligence.

Letter from the Rev. H. Burpe.

Akyab, February 22nd, 1849.

MY DEAR BRO. CRAWLEY,

When I last wrote to you I think we were in Maulmain seeking for health according to our physician's directions. In that city as our dear friends have been informed, my health was greatly improved, so much so, we felt quite encouraged to hope that I should require no greater change than I would find in Arracan. We have been in this province about two months since. After remaining in Akyab three or four weeks without much perceptible benefit we decided to go to Ramree, which is a little inland, in hope that such a change might be beneficial. We also selected that place as a field for the further operations of our Board. We were induced to do so from a number of considerations.— First, Ramree is as interesting a Burman field as any in British Burmah. Secondly, it was destitute, and in the opinion of Bro. Ingalls likely to remain so for some time, unless occupied by us. And thirdly, the assurance we gathered from a letter received from a dear bro. in Nova Scotia, that you would soon send another to labour with us. The last consideration influenced me much in the above decision. However important the field of labour, or how destitute soever it might be, I could not, I could not think it my duty to go there in my present state of health, if a brother was not soon coming to join us.— My health is too feeble, I cannot preach a single sermon without suffering severely from

it, and I can talk but a little. Being, however, quite confident that another mission family would soon come, I thought it very desirable that a field should be selected to which he could come, and a home provided where I could leave my family in case I should be obliged to go to Penang, as advised by a doctor in Maulmain, and therefore requested bro. Ingalls to communicate with his Board with regard to it. The next mail after the one which carried away such a decision brought us the intelligence that the American Board had appointed a missionary to Ramree, and that he was on his way out, and also letters from dear friends at home stating the probability that bro. Anderson would not come. This latter intelligence, which was received first, made me rejoice in the former, for at that time my health was much worse, and we thought we must leave this Province, and my heart was sad for the people. I therefore immediately wrote to bro. Ingalls that I would not for one moment stand in the way of that brother's appointment, and as soon as possible made arrangements to leave, as the hot season was fast approaching, when it is very difficult to travel in small boats. My heart sickens at the thought of these frequent changes and fear the effect which they may have upon the churches, and yet I can I think offer a sufficient apology for every move except that of so prematurely deciding to go to Mergui, without more knowledge of it. You know how flattering was the recommendation which bro. Peck gave of that mission, and how widely differing from the report made by me. The truth is the Mergui mission, according to the division line drawn by the brethren of Tavoy, is not a large province, as you mentioned in your report at Fredericton, but the tail end, and the most uninteresting part of it considered as a Karen mission.

I suppose you will be anxious to know what is the state of my health, and what our intentions are in regard to the future. As to the first I am happy to say it is much better than it was, or has been for about one year past. During the latter part of our stay at Ramree, either through the influence of the climate, or of some patent medicine (Dr. Locock's wafers) sent us by a dear friend in Calcutta, my health greatly improved, and has continued in an improved state, with a little exception, until the present time. As to our future movements I must be slow to say, as it is impossible for me now to speak with certainty, and I do not want to create any more disappointments. We hope that we shall be able to remain here, and if God will permit us I purpose during the approaching rainy season to get a school of Kemeé boys. You have heard much of this poor yet interesting people. I don't know whether I mentioned the fact that bro. Stilson has prepared a spelling book in their language and also another small primer of easy lessons. In deciding to remain here, we were obliged to seek for a place to live. Hitherto while remaining here we have found a home in the mission house, but as another family is expected in two or three weeks, we were compelled to look up another house. There was only one vacant here, which belonged to a gentleman in Calcutta, and in so sad a state that the agent was not willing to put on such repairs as would make it comfortable, and yet asked a rent of 192 rupees per year. As he wanted to sell it at a low rate I thought it best to purchase, and agree to pay him four hundred rupees (£45) for it, and another house which will make a good school house, and another small house which will answer well for the boys to live in. These will all require new roofs and other repairs which however will not cost I think more than about £15 currency. I do not know that you are aware that the houses in these provinces are generally covered with leaves or grass, or both, and that they require to be repaired or renewed every year. In making this purchase I know I have incurred some responsibility, but I hope only such as you will think the necessity of the case required. Should my health fail and I go into the narrow house prepared for mortals, I trust that that will not be the end of the N. S. and N. B. Foreign Mission. Should bro. Anderson, or some other one come here he will find a home and plenty to do. Our visit at Ramree was not without interest. During our stay there we were visited every day (by more or less, some days by large numbers, and among those who came we hoped there were some sincere inquirers. One young man, the son of a Musselman Teacher or Priest, came with us

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