

The Society allow ten pounds worth of books to each Mission for a library, and five pounds worth of pious small tracts to every new Missionary, to be distributed among his parishioners, and other parcels of books, as occasion require. And as the Society generally receive from their Missionaries accounts of their proceedings, and of the state of their several Missions, it is thought proper to publish the following Abstract of such informations as were received from the Missionaries and others in the year 1784.

Newfoundland.

In the beginning of last Spring the Rev. Walter Price, Curate of Dartmouth, having been recommended to the Society by the principal merchants and traders at that place, as a very proper person to succeed the late Mr. Langman in the Mission of St. John's, Newfoundland, was accordingly appointed to it, and the Society have had the satisfaction of hearing that he is very happily settled there, and meets with every encouragement which his diligent attention to the duties of his function may induce him to expect from the regard and esteem of his congregation.

In the course of the year the Society have received several letters from him, by which it appears in general, that the religious state of the
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the island requires much more spiritual assistance than the Society are at present enabled to afford, there being many places where a Minister might be very advantageously employed. The Popish religion prevails much throughout the island.

There are about two or three thousand winter residents in St. John's. Mr. Price had baptised 31, married 16, buried 66. The principal inhabitants and magistrates constantly attend church, but the number of communicants is as yet very small.

Besides the care of his own proper parish, he has occasionally visited other places: in particular, Pity Harbor and Bay Bull, thirty-two miles from St. John. At the latter place there are 600 inhabitants, but very few Protestants. He represents to the Society that the southern parts of the island, from Ferryland to Cape Rois, stand in great need of a Missionary. That, at Placentia, St. Mary's, Fortune Bay, and Trepassey, there are many English people settled who have never heard the word of God preached among them for thirty years past.

The northern part, from Trinity Bay to Cape St. John's, is equally destitute of the opportunities of public worship. In some places a few religious lay men assemble their neighbours

bours together, and read the service of the church and a sermon. This has been the case more particularly at Trinity Bay and the adjacent harbors, where a Minister has long been wanting. The principal inhabitants, however, being now in a more settled state since the peace, and thoroughly sensible of the baneful influence which the want of religious instruction and public worship have had on the morals and happiness of the people, have expressed their concern to the Society, and earnestly solicited their protection and assistance. At the same time they have recommended a gentleman of good abilities and unblemished character, who at present endeavors to supply the defect by reading prayers and a sermon to his neighbors every Lord's day; and whom they would be happy to have fixed in that place as a Missionary from the Society. And considering the deplorable situation of the people there, and the strong assurances that the person recommended is very likely to answer the Society's view in spreading the knowledge of the Gospel, they have given leave for his repairing to England, that he may be ordained, and return Missionary to that place.

The Society have sent Mr. Price a large number of prayer-books and religious tracts.

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