

Files 77 & 78

August 1, 1838

Survey of the Mission

R. H. Bourne's responses to the printed questionnaire

Rawdon	800 Church of England of 1000 Protestants
Kildare	90 Church of England of 165 Protestants
Kilkenny	126 Church of England of 131 Protestants

Services occasionally performed in New Paisley, New Glasgow, Wesleyville.

Excepting those days on which I visit the Townships of Kildare and Kilkenny which is about once a month – I perform the full morning service regularly at the Village Church in Rawdon coming at the hour of eleven – and in the afternoon of each Sabbath at the hour of four in some distant parts of the township in a schoolhouse or private dwelling – of which there are 6 different stations in Rawdon. There is one station in Kildare and one in Kilkenny. There has usually been divine Service in the Village Church upon the principal Festivals and frequent Services during week days in other places but not at stated times. Upon all which occasions, I endeavour to adapt my instructions to the occasion and circumstances of the people. Sometimes taking a passage of Scripture Sometimes the Gospel or Epistle and sometimes an article of the Creed etc as my subject.

There is but one church in my mission situated in the Village of Rawdon - not yet finished and not yet consecrated. There is still due upon it an amount of a few pounds.

On account of the distance of the greater part from the Church the attendance varied very much. In the Church it might average about 80 or 90. It has sometimes been filled and probably would contain more than 200 persons. The average attendance at the other places would vary from 25 to 75.

There are 24 seats in my church which are not yet made into the form of pews and are free seats. It is in contemplation as soon as they can be completed to rent them, reserving a few free.

The Lord's Supper has been administered but once since my residence in the Township. At which time it is supposed that upwards of one hundred communicants received, of whom a considerable number were of other denominations. It would be difficult to state the entire number of communicants but upon enquiry I find that nearly all who are adults report themselves as such. There is not yet suitable furniture provided for the Lord's Table.

The collection taken up at the time of the Communion was thrown into the collections made at each Sabbath out of which the expence attending the administration of the Communion was paid and which has been applied to the

defraying of the expence of cleaning & warming the church as well as occasionally to the relief of the indigents. The amount collected up to the present time (during the year ending August 1, 1838 is £4.2"0 – Out of which there has been paid £2 10 0 leaving a balance of £1 12 0.

I have been accustomed to administering baptism in all places where congregations were assembled and not otherwise excepting in the case mentioned in the question. (*sickness or extreme unction*)

I am (*duly licensed by the Bishop*).

I endeavour to (*visit the sick and aged whether summoned or not*).

I am accustomed to have the children presented to me a half hour or so before service at those places where I preach. The attendance in the different places varies – from 10 to 20. I believe there are upwards of a hundred children undergoing catechetical instruction in my mission. Perhaps half that number are desirous to be confirmed.

We have no clerk but there is in most of the places one or more individuals who act occasionally as clerk.

The village church is swept every week.

I have a surplice provided at my own expence which is preserved clean and in good repair.

There is a Bible and Prayer Book for the minister. None of these (*a Book of Banns, fair linen cloth for covering the Communion Table and for the remnants of consecrated elements, a Baptismal Font*).

I have (*a Register Book*) *Entries are duly made* so far as may be.

During the year ending August 1, 1838 there have been 65 Baptisms, 10 Marriages, 4 Burials.

There has been nothing ... in contemplation as yet (*proposing the erection of a church within the mission*).

The burial ground attached to the village church is not yet fenced nor consecrated – but a subscription is in circulation among the people pf the Township towards the enclosing of it.

There is neither clerk nor sexton in Rawdon (*to receive fees*). The only fees received by the minister .?. for marriage for which the customary fee has been 10

/ except in one or two instances of burial. The whole amount thus received is about Five Pounds (£5).
I have (*a Parsonage House*).

The instalments [sic] upon the two village lots purchased for the Church and Parsonage have all been paid for which receipts are in my possession – but the Patent or Grant has not yet been received from the Crown Office.

Regarding Glebe Land: I have no land excepting the two village lots containing about 10 acres upon which the church, burial ground and Parsonage are located. I have 4 or 5 acres under cultivation. The rest has been cleared of wood but is growing up wild.

There is but one elementary school in the township conducted by a lady from the United States whose support is chiefly derived from friends at home. The usual attendance is about 20 of which there is nearly an equal amount of males and females. The want of Schools throughout the Township is unquestionably one of the greatest disadvantages under which they labor.

There are 4 Sabbath Schools in Rawdon, one in Kildare & two un Kilkenny. These all with the exception of two are under my own occasional superintendence. These S. Schools have hardly yet been duly organized and are but imperfectly furnished with books. The principal object, thus far has been to instruct them in the Catechism.

The people generally are in possession of Bibles and Payer Books. There are however about 30 families destitute in Rawdon & nearly as many in the two other Townships.

Regarding responses and singing: In this respect my congregations are generally very backward. I have endeavored to engage them to join in the responses a number of times. As yet however I have not to a great extent succeeded.

In connection with the fifth question (*the expenses & amount due for churches in the mission*) I have to acknowledge the receipt of Fifteen pounds & Seventeen shillings from the Lord Bishop of Montreal towards the completion of the Village Church which together with fourteen pounds eleven shillings and 3 pence received in Cash & provisions collected in the Congregations in all £30 .. 8.. 3 has been applied to the purpose of Clapboarding the church – ceiling it & furnishing with seats &c – leaving as was before said, an amount of a few pounds still due. It is proper to state also that upon the first of the year a Sermon was preached in the Church for the Society for the P of the G. and a collection of Three Pounds was taken up and paid to the Montreal Branch.