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appointment as schoolmaster, for we next encounter him in Sydney, Cape Breton, in 1834, engaged in his first vocation, if not his most important one. Of his years as schoolmaster, all is silence. However, we know that he held the post for six years in a community where schoolmasters were scarce. From as early as November 2, 1834, Reverend Charles Ingles, rector of St. George's, had asked for an assistant to take services at remote settlements such as Cow Bay. In 1838, Mr. Ingles stated that "the Church of England on the Island is in a destitute state, owing to the superior advantages enjoyed by every other denomination." These superior advantages are well documented by Laurie Stanley in her study of the early years of the Presbyterian Church in Cape Breton, *A Well-watered Garden: The Glasgow Ladies' Society* had funded by 1840 at least four clergymen in Cape Breton. But the Presbyterian Church in Port Morien was not permanently supplied until 1851. As well, there was a significant Roman Catholic population well supplied with clergy throughout the Island. Ingles hoped that the Venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts would "turn its attention to this significant desert." It was therefore through the efforts of Ingles that William Y. Porter assumed the role for which he had longed when a student at Cambridge. He was ordained a priest in 1840. Thus began a ministry to the scattered communities along the southeastern shores of Cape Breton which lasted for nineteen years. In addition, he assisted two incumbents at St. George's, first the Reverend Charles Ingles and, in 1853, the Reverend Richard Uniacke. He was able in his nineteen years to green that "significant desert." The Reverend Porter was the first missionary to provide regular services to the people of Big Glace Bay, Cow Bay, Mira, Malnadieu, Lorraine, Louisbourg and smaller points in between. As we have seen, these settlements, given over to fishing, farming and mining, straggled along the coast of Cape Breton, dependent on the whims both of the market and of nature. In serving his charges, no missionary _____

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