

—it is not from Dr. Cuyler, but it shows the converse truth and is as true as the one quoted from the Doctor: "The denomination that is most truly loyal to its friends in a new country is usually the most loyal to Christ." If the statements made in THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT regarding the Browns were just reversed they would be nearer the truth; e.g., then we would read, "certainly the Manitoba and Missionary Society had the fullest knowledge that the Browns had never left the ministry, and were 'willing to devote themselves entirely to mission work in Manitoba.'" And the sentence on page 110 of THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT for April 1, would describe the case exactly by leaving out the word "not": "The impression left on many minds that no encouragement had been given to mission work at Pilot Mound by our society is certainly (not) well founded."

It may not be out of place for me to say a word concerning my own relation with the Missionary Society. I came to Manitoba by the request and under the direction of the Manitoba Committee, and began work in January, 1881. For the first year the half of my salary was paid by that committee, the Colonial Society supplying the larger part of the amount. At the end of the first year the church remitted to the society the grant of \$600 that had been made for the second year. From that time to the present the church has been self-supporting, though I saw that a speaker at the last meeting of the Colonial Missionary Society stated that we were still receiving missionary aid. Like some other writers on Manitoba he must have drawn on his imagination for his facts. About the year 1883 the Manitoba Committee ceased to exist, and the work was taken up by the Canada Congregational Missionary Society. I believe that when this change was made the society began to take steps to do something in the country, though what they were I do not know as I was not consulted by them. They began, it seems, by ignoring those who had some knowledge of the work here. Up to the end of February, 1884, they had never consulted Mr. Hague, who more than any other one had taken an interest in the work. It has been said that I have been adverse to the society and have blocked their way. Let us see. Mr. Hall in his famous letter in the March CANADIAN INDEPENDENT says he wrote to me "officially asking for information regarding three places in Manitoba." This letter is the only one I ever received from him or from the society that he represents. The letter is before me and is dated Nov. 27, 1883. Mr. Hall's memory must be very defective for there is not the remotest hint in his letter that he desires any "information regarding three places." He writes saying the society intended sending three men early in 1884 to Brandon, Portage and Pilot Mound, and asks "could you suggest who might be suitable for these fields." He quotes extensively from my letter

in reply, and let me say here that I stand by every sentence he there quotes. That was written about sixteen months ago and I see no reason to-day to change a single line. The history of missions in this country abundantly confirms the judgment I then expressed. Mr. Hall says: "The executive was not discouraged in the least" by my letter. "We continued our enquiries regarding the places referred to. The Revs. R. McKay and C. Duff and several correspondents on the ground encouraged us to go forward." If this means that the society was encouraged to go forward at Brandon and Portage, then I affirm that those who encouraged them gave them false grounds for encouragement. What Revs. McKay and Duff may have told them I know not, and what these men may have seen encouraging, I know not, but knowing the condition of these two towns as I do, it is a marvel to me how Revs. McKay and Duff could have encouraged them to go forward. Rev. R. McKay could not have done so intelligently because he was not here after the events referred to. Who were the correspondents on the ground? Mr. C. J. Atkinson, who was most active in the first effort to start a Congregational church at the Portage, writes me, dated March 24, 1885, as follows: "Since Mr. Duff left I have had no correspondence, so far as I can now remember, with the Missionary Society, and I am positive that neither by letter or word of mouth have I encouraged any further effort being made at Portage la Prairie. Do not think any others who assisted while Mr. Duff was with us had any such correspondence or I would have heard of it. I have the minutes of all the meetings of a business character, and a record of all others that were held here. I find by looking up minutes, that at the last meeting at which all the prime movers, five in number, were present,—Mr. Duff was also there—on May 2, 1883, a resolution was unanimously passed as follows: Resolved that in view of existing circumstances it is considered advisable to discontinue services for the present;" and he adds, "instead of circumstances having improved since that time they have grown worse."

A young man from the college—I do not know him and forget his name—wrote me in the beginning of 1884, saying he had been asked by the society to go to Portage. He said his idea was to do evangelistic work for the summer vacation, and he wanted to know what I thought about it. I forget what I wrote him, but it seems that I told him it would be as well to go to the moon, and so far as the religious need of Portage was concerned, and so far as the probability of establishing a Congregational church there was concerned, I do not see that I could have given him better advice. The Missionary Society should have been ashamed to send a young student to a place where there were only five Congregationalists, and these five were averse to any further efforts, as their resolution