

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN ORDINATION IN THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

In the August issue of the *MARITIME PRESBYTERIAN* we gave some minutes of Nova Scotia Presbyterianism of fourscore years ago. Below will be found a continuation of the same which will be of interest to a very large circle of our readers for the reason that it is the record of a Presbytery that had the oversight of such a large district of country, appointing its supply for vacancies in Halifax, Hants, Colchester, Pictou, Cumberland, and Prince Edwards Island, and holding its meetings now in Pictou, again in Truro, Londonderry or Douglass. It will moreover be of interest to all, in that it gives us a picture of the discipline of those early days, of the ways and means of settling a minister, and the length of time occupied in the same, of the travel and toil of the ministers, and the limited religious privileges enjoyed by the people. It gives also an account of the first regular Presbyterian ordination in the Maritime Provinces; for although Rev. Bruin Romeas Comingo was ordained prior to that time by a company of Congregationalist and Presbyterian ministers, Mr. Dick was the first to be ordained by a regularly constituted Presbytery; and as a few weeks since Lal Bahari our first native minister in the Foreign Field, was ordained in Trinidad, it is interesting to look back to the first regular ordination in the Maritime Provinces, and to mark the growth of the church since those distant days.

Mr. Dick was the writer of the letter given below which has been kindly sent us by a correspondent showing the teachings enjoyed by our forefathers. The lady to whom the letter was written was the great-grandmother of Rev. John Logan of Acadia Mines, Londonderry, and Rev. Richmond Logan late of Sheet Harbour.

Pictou, East River,
July 5th, 1872.

"The Presbytery was constituted with

prayer.

Present, Duncan Ross, John Brown, and James McGregor, ministers, with Robert Marshall, Joseph Crowe, and Thomas Fraser, ruling elders.

Robert Stewart and George McConnel for themselves and others within the bounds of the West River congregation appeared before the Presbytery and signified that they had excluded from sealing ordinances by the Session, wishing to know the reason why, and if they were to expect any redress from the Presbytery. The Moderator informed them that the reason why the Session excluded them was, that seeing they at present refused to support the gospel though dwelling within the bounds of a settled congregation therefore they had no right to the privileges thereof. The Presbytery conversed with them for some time and proposed to them that they should be assessed for the support of the gospel along with the members of the West River congregation, and that they might have church privileges there as in the East River congregation. This they refused, upon which the Presbytery resolved that since they scrupled being assessed they might pay in any mode they pleased provided that they would pay an equivalent to the assessment, and then they should have church privileges as above.

Appointed their next meeting at the West River on Monday after the sacrament in September,

Closed with prayer.

Pictou, West River. Sept. 20th 1802.

The Presbytery was constituted with prayer.

Present, John Brown, Duncan Ross, and James McGregor, ministers; with Thomas Fraser and John McLean ruling elders.

Alexander Dick preacher of the Gospel having arrived from the General Associate Synod of Edinburgh in Scotland, since the last meeting of Presbytery, and having been requested by some members to prepare a lecture and popular sermon to be delivered before the Presbytery, delivered a lecture from Matt. XXVIII, 18, 19, 20, and a popular sermon from verse 20th, and the question being put "approve of the same as part of his trials for ordination or not, it was carried unanimously, approve.

The Presbytery appointed Mr. Dick to deliver at their next meeting an exercise and additions from Rom. 1:13, to read the first psalm in Hebrew; to read a part of the Greek New Testament; *ad aperitorem libri*, and to give an account of church