

On the last Sabbath previous to his departure, he proclaimed the gospel of salvation in Greenock, and on the one previous, in Paisley, where a liberal contribution was handed to him to defray the expenses of his mission. In September he set sail from his native land for Pictou, where he safely arrived, and where he was received with great joy by the brethren. The Presbytery were at that time anxious about Prince Edward Island, particularly in consequence of the disappointments the people there had experienced. About eighteen years had elapsed since Dr. McGregor had first preached the gospel in Princetown, and with the exception of a short time, that Mr. Urquhart had laboured among them, they had received only occasional supply of sermon, and had suffered the miseries of hope deferred. In the year 1799 the Synod in Scotland had appointed the Rev Francis Pringle to that place, but coming out by way of New York, the Presbytery there detained him. In the year 1803 Dr. McCulloch was appointed to P. E. Island, but he arrived too late in the fall to get a passage over, and remained in Pictou all winter. A party from the former place arrived in Pictou to take him over, on the very day of his induction at the latter. Mr. Gordon had been sent to the Island two years previously, but his health was now failing, and it was already seen that he was not to be spared long to labor in the Lord's vineyard on earth. Under these circumstances the Presbytery considered the circumstances of the Island so pressing, that, notwithstanding the application from Halifax, they sent him to the former place for the winter. This decision acceded with his own views, and the appointment as bringing him into close association with his old friend, Mr. Gordon, was particularly agreeable to his feelings.— He and Mrs. Keir accordingly removed to P. E. Island that fall, where he took up his abode at Princetown, lodging for the winter in the house of Mr. John Thomson, one of the elders, near where the present church now stands.

During the most of that winter he preached at Princetown and the adjacent settlements, but he also preached at St. Peters by exchange with Mr. Gordon. The latter came to Princetown in April following, though in a state of great feebleness, to dispense Baptism to the people, while Dr. Keir supplied his place. On his way home Mr. Gordon died at Covehead. Dr. Keir then, we believe, also gave some supply to St. Peters. In spring he returned to the mainland, and during that summer (1809) he supplied Halifax and Merigomish. In the meantime calls came out both from St. Peters and Princetown, the call of the latter being dated 19th June 1809. The people of Halifax and Merigomish also prepared to call him, but the Presbytery in consequence of the state of the Island by the death of Mr. Gordon, were anxious for him to go there, and in his own opinion the finger of Providence pointed out that duty called him thither. In these circumstances the calls from these places were not prosecuted. The people of Halifax were so disappointed that they threatened to join another body.

We have conversed with several persons who recollect him at this period of his life, and it is interesting to look back upon the impressions formed of him then, and compare them with what he showed himself afterward. As to his preaching, it was not of the style, which might be denominated popular, but by the judicious it was