

kindness of your Presbytery in so promptly ministering to their necessity. I commenced my labours on the first Sabbath of November, 1867, and ended (in obedience to a recall by Home Mission Board) on the third Sabbath of February, 1868. During my term at Chatham I preached twice each Lord's day, held service in outlying districts and attended to a weekly prayer meeting. There were numbers of the congregation sick, and these I visited. I had also to attend many funerals in connexion with our own Church, and also with the "Kirk." I return thanksgiving to Almighty God for His mercy to me in my ministrations. My health was singularly good this winter. The attendance on Church (especially by young men) excellent, and the sympathy of the people manifest both by word and deed.

When I came to Chatham it was quite evident that Dr. McCurdy was slowly dying. I had heard in Edinburgh, during a visit there, two months before I saw Dr. McCurdy, that there was no mitigation of his malady, and that aggravated bronchial affection had developed into serious pulmonary disease,—therefore I was prepared to find him quite ill. He, however, seemed to be unconscious of the rapid growth of his disease, and spoke very often of summer days to come and returning health. It was pathetic to hear this, when the shadow of death was so near. He grew gradually weaker, and at length, about the beginning of December, took to his bed, from whence he never rose. I bear most willing testimony to his uncomplaining submission to God's will; he truly possessed his soul in patience,—murmured not, but meditated on those sublime realities beyond and above this life, which he had so often discoursed of in his ministry of the word. He was visited during his last days by very many, and he spoke very feelingly to such of his flock as saw him. I was with him, reading and praying, as often as circumstances would admit. As you are aware, he died calmly, literally fell asleep in Jesus on the first day of this year.

The Rev. Mr. Law of Richibucto, having sent word to Mrs. McCurdy that he could not preach her late husband's funeral sermon, it devolved on me to do so. There were many circumstances that rendered this a most difficult duty. I had little time to prepare; my personal experience of the deceased was small since I knew him only as an invalid, therefore I could not use this to much advantage in the sermon, and also I could not get an exact enough estimate of him as a man or a minister, from mere hearsay, to serve my purpose. However, I prayed God to prevent me from error in speaking to the people concerning their late pastor, and I know I avoided indulging in extravagant allusions to Dr. McCurdy's

memory, without affecting the true things that could be said of him.

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During my service in the congregation they very heartily commenced a choir, and I have no doubt, under efficient measures, the service of praise in Chatham church will be first-rate. I feel myself bound to declare that the people of St. John's church are determined to abide right loyally by the laws of our beloved church.

My earnest prayer for this portion of Christ's heritage is that prosperity and peace may prevail there, and that grace may rest upon them all. I owe a debt of gratitude to Messrs. Russell, Marshall, and Sheriff, for great kindness to me; also to Dr. Thomson for counsel and assistance. Mr. Law could not leave his congregation vacant to visit Chatham and read the minute of your Presbytery, so I consented to supply his place on Sabbath, 16th February. Returning my respectful acknowledgments to the Rev. Clerk of your Presbytery, for his communications in reference to Chatham, so promptly sent to me.

I remain, yours, &c.,

ALEX. RAE GARVIE.

To the Reverend the Moderator and other members of St. John Presbytery.

According to appointment, I preached in Moncton on the third Sabbath (19th) of January, morning and evening. On the fourth Sabbath (26th) of January, I held divine service in Moncton in the morning and in the Scotch Settlement in the afternoon. On Sabbath, second of February, I conducted divine worship in Moncton in the forenoon and Shediac in the evening. On the second Sabbath (9th) of February, I preached at Bucatouche in the morning and Cocagne in the afternoon. On all occasions the attendance was very large.

I may state that I visited about fifty families in Moncton and surrounding districts, and conducted religious worship in all. In every instance the people seem glad to see me, and extended a hearty welcome. We remember, however, that Paul may plant and Apollos may water, but God alone can give the increase. May our Divine Master bless abundantly the labors of his servants in this interesting field and elsewhere.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN D. MURRAY.

NOTES BY MR. J. K. BEARISTO.

I preached by appointment on the first Sabbath of November in the morning in the church at Nerepis, to a large and very tentative congregation, (railway construction going on at the time), and in the evening six miles farther up the river in a school