

hints as to the kind of thing that was wanted. In two or three days he showed us another paper. This he published in the *Pictou Observer*, and it placed him at once at the head of our Provincial writers. After an interchange of seven or eight letters,—Mr. Fraser rising at every renewed effort,—the Doctor had to retire from the contest. He never again appeared in public controversy.

Mr. and Mrs. Fraser were greatly loved and respected by all the Kirk people. He was the first Minister of the Scotch Establishment who settled here, and soon fixed himself firmly in the affections of the Highlanders by his sociable and gentlemanly manners. The lamentations of these people were deep and loud when he left them.

By this time (1840) there had arrived other Ministers of the Kirk in the County of Pictou: Rev. K. J. McKenzie in the town of Pictou; Rev. John McRae at East and West Branches; Rev. Dougald McKichan at Barney's River, and others; all excellent men and good preachers. Rev. John Stuart succeeded Mr. Fraser as Minister of New Glasgow. In twenty-three years, from 1819 to 1842, the Church of Scotland in this Province and P. E. Island increased from one clergyman to twenty-six, presiding over as many congregations. At a meeting of Synod for 1842, there were twenty-six ordained clergymen present. The adherents of the Kirk in this Province and P. E. Island would not be less than 45,000 souls.

It was at this time, when the Church was in the highest prosperity, with the brightest prospects of enlargement before it, that the unhappy *Disruption* fell upon it and apparently endangered its very existence. It would be unprofitable now to enlarge upon the reasons which led to that lamentable crisis. They are matters of history. The cry raised was a popular cry, but the object of some of the leaders was clerical aggrandizement, such as no civilized government could grant with safety. The leaders in the movement were men of eminence and talents, but they allowed their impulses to control their judgment; therefore they succeeded, not in gaining the object in view, but only in splitting the Church. The effect of the Disruption was most disastrous to the Church here.—Most of the Clergymen, with a large number of the people, went over to the "Free Church;" and others of the Clergymen—(no less than six from the County of Pictou)—returned to Scotland to take charge there of congregations (or rather Parishes) left vacant by the secession. The late Rev. Dr. McGillivray of McLennan's Mountain, and Rev. Mr. Martin of Halifax, were the only Clergymen

that remained loyally with us,—the Rev. Mr. Scott of Halifax standing neutral at the time.

These were dark and gloomy days! We were bewildered! No man scarcely knew what to do, or whom to place confidence in, or ask for advice. Old ties of friendship were broken up; the peace of families was destroyed, and strife and bad blood were rife far and near!

The Minister of New Glasgow congregation, Rev. John Stuart, went over to the "Free Church," with about the half of the congregation. Doctor Forrest, Squire Fraser, (who returned to us in the course of the year), John Cameron, Esq., John Grant, Esq., and others, followed the Minister. The Minister was in possession of Church and Manse. There were nevertheless some sterling fellows who adhered to the old Church. Alas, most of them have passed away! Simon McKay, Neil McKay, Esq., Duncan Murray, Simon Fraser (blacksmith), Donald McDonald (tailor), Alexander Douglass,—grand men and true, all of them!

A combination of various circumstances placed me in the front rank of the contending parties of those times. Perhaps I had as much influence with the Kirk people in those days as any other person in the Province. Our Clergymen had deserted us in the hour of our utmost need, except the Rev. Mr. McGillivray; and he, although a good man, was not fitted for contention. He shrank from it, and had almost prepared himself to leave us more than once, and to follow his brethren who went home. We prevailed on him to remain with us; and thus we were able to keep our congregations together,—Mr. McGillivray itinerating and preaching from Church to Church for more than two years. No help could be got from the Church at home. There the Disruption was in some things more disastrous in its consequences than here. It emptied the pulpits of many of its best preachers and greatest ornaments, and deprived it of almost the entire staff of its Probationers. Notwithstanding all these discouraging circumstances, we did not lose heart altogether. The first shock was the most stupefying! After using peaceable arguments unsuccessfully with Mr. Stuart to quit the Church and Manse, we at last ejected him by a suit in the Supreme Court,—a suit which cost him £100. We were quite sorry for it, but the blame was entirely his own.

When we got possession of the Church and Church property, I opened a correspondence with the Colonial Committee of the Church at home. It was through this correspondence, and largely on my own representation, that the Deputations from the Kirk visited this country: First, Dr. Simpson, Dr. McLeod of Morven,