

It appears, however, that the Rev. Aaron Cleaveland from the United States was the first pastor. The next incumbent, so far as has been certainly ascertained, was the Rev. John Symcombe, from whose time (1769) the Baptismal Register is complete. He was also from the United States, and of the Congregational connection,—in his own day, “the divine and poet of Nova Scotia, of whose pious and apostolic labours many could testify.” He was succeeded in 1784 by the Rev. Thomas Russell, the first Minister in connection with the Church of Scotland, during whose short incumbency of two years the disputes above referred to raged with great violence. These ended in the resignation of Mr. Russell, who was shortly afterwards lost at sea in crossing the Atlantic. Application having been made to the Edinburgh University, the Rev. Andrew Brown, D. D., was appointed, who next filled the charge from 1787 to 1795. Dr. Brown was a native of Biggar, Lanarkshire, and a man of acknowledged ability, who, it is said, outstripped all others in this colony in genius and acquirements. After leaving Halifax he was presented to the parish of Lochmaben, Dumfriesshire, and soon after was translated to the New Greyfriars Church, Edinburgh, from which he was promoted to the Old Church in the same city. In 1801 he succeeded Dr. Blair as professor of rhetoric and belles-lettres. He died in 1834. The Rev. Dr. Archibald Gray succeeded Dr. Brown in 1795, and was assisted at different times by the Rev. Robert Knox and Rev. Ebenezer Rennie. Dr. Gray was an accomplished scholar and gentleman, and his pulpit preparations were of that bright polished order that distinguished the Scottish Clergy of the day. He was a native of Morayshire, and a graduate of King’s College, Aberdeen, from whence he received his degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1804. He died in 1826.

The only other clergyman of the Church of Scotland at this time in the Province was the Rev. James Munroe, settled at Antigonish. Like some other Scotchmen, he was not made of the most yielding material; but under a rough exterior, he possessed a feeling heart, and he was justly regarded as a sound

divine and a sincere Christian. Between the two Ministers there seems to have existed no concert or intercourse, and Munroe, becoming weary of his isolation, connected himself with the Synod of “The Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia,” which was formed at this time by the union of the Burghers and Anti-Burghers. Dr. Gray was laid aside from his labours, in the prime of life, by a stroke of paralysis, and died at Halifax in 1826. It is worthy of remark that during his illness public worship was maintained in St. Matthew’s by the Rector and Curate of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, the late much respected Dr. Inglis, afterwards Bishop of Nova Scotia, and Dr. Twining, subsequently Chaplain to the Forces, who then officiated alternately morning and evening every Sabbath day for a year or more. At this time many of the leading citizens of Halifax were members of St. Matthew’s. The Lieut.-Governor had his seat in the Kirk, and during the administration of Lord Dalhousie, Sir James Kempt, and Sir Colin Campbell, it was occupied by these representatives of royalty regularly at morning or evening service every Sabbath day.

Mr. Munroe died at Antigonish in a good old age, and was buried in the church-yard of that place. A green grassy mound only marked his resting place until, a few years ago, some Ministers of the Presbytery of Pictou in connection with the Church of Scotland, had a memorial stone placed at the head of his grave in token of respect for the memory of a deceased brother beloved.

We are apt to forget how much we owe to our early pioneer ministers, and history too often gives silent consent to the value of their services. Mr. Haliburton, however, is sound on this point; he says, in his history of Nova Scotia, “as soon as it was known in Scotland “that the gospel was preached at Pictou “in Gaelic the stream of emigration “was directed thither,” and, “it would be unjust to omit the names of the Rev. James Munroe, Hugh Graham, and James McGregor, to whom it may be said that the Presbyterian cause in Nova Scotia almost owes its existence. These gentlemen, amidst privations which the present inhabitants of the country cannot appreciate, devoted