

half-breed congregation belonging to us in the country, and always identified with the name of the late Hon. Donald Gunn, a legislative councillor—a useful man of science—a historian, and better still, a good friend of the Church. Mr. Nisbet was a man of great industry and perseverance; he possessed that courage which made his brother a successful South Sea missionary. Able to plan and build houses, as well as to instruct the people, he was well suited for a new country. If Dr. Black was our Northwestern pioneer Home Missionary, Mr. Nisbet was our pioneer Indian Missionary. The mission begun by him on the banks of the Saskatchewan at Prince Albert in 1866 has gathered round it the principal settlement of the Northwest Territories. Remember them that had the rule over you. Though they are dead, yet their memories speak. Two other brethren, Messrs. Fletcher and McNab, joined these pioneers, and the four in 1870 made up the Presbytery of Manitoba, established in that year. They have all gone from us, though one who was with them as an unordained helper, Rev. Mr. Whimster, has come back to us after the lapse of years, and Rev. Alexander Matheson, who had previously worked with them, has since returned and still remains amongst us. As I knew the Presbytery of Manitoba in 1871, in the second year of its existence, the four brethren, Black, Nisbet, Fletcher and McNab were its ministerial members, and Kildonan, Little Britain, Headingly, Poplar Point, High Bluff, Portage la Prairie and Prince Albert—seven in all—were its preaching points in the country. From 1851 to 1870 made up the years of its childhood. The formation of a Presbytery by the church was coincident with great political changes in the country, viz., the transfer to Canada. Many a time I had the pleasure of discussing with Dr. Black the old Red River days. They were halcyon days to him; they were the days of his early ministry—of his growing family—of a strong personal influence. The Canadian occupation of the country came in the 20th year of his ministry, and made great changes—but Dr. Black was ever a warm friend to the new comer—and became as dearly beloved by the new as he had been, and continued to be by the old.

#### ITS YOUTH.

Of the third era of Presbyterianism in the Northwest, beginning with the Canadian occupation—which I may call the

youth of Presbyterianism in this country—I can speak from personal knowledge. It was my good fortune to have to do with two important events in our history, viz., the organization of Knox Church, Winnipeg, early in 1872, and the establishment of Manitoba College, October, 1871. Knox Church has influenced our cause in this country very much; it has given the idea of organization to many; its early determination to be self-sustaining gave the cue to many another to be as independent as possible of central mission funds; its cultivation of a musical service has been of use to our cause; its early employment of instrumental music, not as a destroyer of vocal praise, but as an aid, has prevented us from ever having an "organ" case in the Northwest, while its use of our excellent hymn-book has led to its introduction in many congregations of the Synod.

Of Manitoba College it needs not that I should speak; it has ever been a rallying point for the church. There can be no doubt that from 1870 to 1881 was the formative period of our church history. From being numerically insignificant at the beginning of this period the consciousness gradually grew within us that we were relatively gaining in strength and force, not by depreciating others, not by proselytism nor by any unfair methods, but by energetically following the settler and by preaching Christ. And brethren it was not a mere happen so. Guided, I have no doubt, by divine impulse, our Presbytery set itself early to work up its case in Canada. It boldly took stand as a Canadian church when others hesitated. I remember in 1872 at the Assembly in Hamilton, a leading member of the Assembly expressed contempt for Manitoba; for years we had to bear with rebuffs: but by personal appeal, by constant newspaper articles and letter, by continued asking of the Assembly we obtained recognition; the Canadian church began to feel the importance of the Northwest; next it began to feel a little proud of its operations, until now she will do almost anything Manitoba asks. From 1870 to 1884, her interest may be measured by a sum of not less than \$200,000 sent to assist us in missionary and educational work. I believe, moreover, that the large influx of Canadian population of the Presbyterian faith that we have seen here, is largely to be accounted for by this growth of interest throughout our church in the Northwest from the persistent action of