

intercourse that my people were kindly disposed towards me, I felt exceedingly agitated on preaching my first sermon. Looking at my audience, I was deeply struck with my own weak and slender attainments, and the awful responsibility I had assumed, and from which there could be no retreat. I was now, in the providence of God, occupying a station, if faithfully employed, of great social and religious influence, and of vast consequence both to myself and my people; and if it should happen the same congregation, or any member thereof, to take hurt or hindrance by reason of my negligence; I knew the greatness of the fault, and also the horrible punishment that would ensue.

More than fifty-seven years have passed away since that sermon was preached, and I still behold in the book of remembrance the whole of that scene as if it were of yesterday, and I am at times even yet similarly affected. My congregation in Cornwall was at first very small, and confined to the village and neighbourhood, consequently my clerical duties were so little burthensome as to leave me much leisure time. Thus situated, I was induced to listen to the solicitations of the parents of some of my pupils who had not finished their studies at Kingston, to continue them at my new Mission, and also to the urgent entreaties of many from Lower as well as Upper Canada, to admit their sons to the same privilege, because there was at that time no seminary in the country where the Protestant youth could obtain a liberal education. I spent nine years very happily at Cornwall; my time was fully, and on the whole, usefully and pleasantly occupied. My congregation gradually increased, and the communicants multiplied year by year. I sought recreation occasionally from what I called Missionary excursions. I considered my parish to extend as far as Brockville, about sixty miles, and within this area I made from time to time, as my avocations admitted, appointments for Divine worship, and for the administration of the sacraments. These services were delightful to myself, and gratifying to the people scattered through the wilderness. Hundreds are still alive who were baptized at these appointments, and many a mother's heart was filled with joy in beholding her child made a member of Christ, the child of God, and inheritor of the kingdom of heaven. In 1812, I was transferred to Toronto, then York. I left Cornwall with deep regret, yielding only to the conviction that it opened to me a larger field of usefulness. In my new parish my clerical duties were very much increased. But I still contrived for many years to keep up my Missionary excursions through the distant settlements, and I can still find many of my baptized children in the Talbot settlement, the townships of Tecumseth and Penetanguishene, Orillia and Georgina, Port Hope, Cobourg, &c. The general progress of the Church during all this time, was much slower than might have been expected. In 1803, we had only five clergymen in Upper Canada, and one Bishop for all Canada. In 1819, the clergy had only increased to sixteen, with two military chaplains. During the French revolutionary war emigration was next to nothing, and they dropped in by single families. It was not till the American war of 1812, and after the peace of 1815, on the return

of the
or the
Unite
years
great
what
propo
one;
they
suppo
Bisho
progr
encou
peace
to any
there
contin
like a
gloric
We
from
Sister
Provi
"M
of Ex
that
fluenc
to the
marri
a dec
been
Chur
aware
its pr
I tru
not b
to leg
no e
place
Parli
legali
oppo
Hous
Uppe
calles
Cana
it, an
dang
deno