

ther provision guaranteed to the widow and the orphan. Progress, solid progress, would surely be the verdict of our Presbyterian father; and we, re-echoing his words would join with him in crying, "The Lord hath done great things for us where-of we are glad."

But let us advance. For assuredly a man so supremely indifferent to worldly considerations would be little content to stay surveying these outworks. "You have much to show," he might urge; "of provision for ministers. How about the the providing of ministers?"

Again let us appeal to facts. I shall not rake up the ashes of the controversies which once raged around the Pictou Academy. When fault-finding has been exhausted, the facts remain, (1), That at the earliest possible period, the Presbyterians of Pictou sought to establish means for higher education, and (2), That some, Dr. MacCulloch at their head, saw the desirableness, not to say the necessity, at a like period, of educating young men for the ministry in this country itself. These were far-seeing projects, the projects of men who had the good of their country at heart, and however unsuccessful at or after a time, good, vast and far-reaching, did result from these endeavours. I honor the memory of the men who established in this "distant corner" (Dalhousie's expression) a school, in which, in the face of difficulties the most complicated and vexatious, were trained, Judges, Governors, our present Dominion Chief Justice, Doctors, and Scientific men, as well as ministers of the Gospel, which diffused a taste for literature and science, which, out of the wars waged around it, extorted equal rights to public education for all classes without exception, which led to this Province securing the true force of representative institutions. The further efforts of a purely Presbyterian character, the work done at West River by one, Dr. Ross, whose memory I cannot but revere, at Truro, in Halifax, by way of educating a ministry composed of your own sons among yourselves, is not the record contained in the Chronicles of our Churches? Were Dr. MacGregor among us to-day, he would see in Dalhousie a University, to secure a degree in which, is an honor second not even to that of those conferred by the wealthier institutions of the old world, the efficiency of which depends chiefly on the liberality of Presbyterians, most

of all, on a man of this county,—fed by the renovated Academy on yonder hill,—a seminary second to none of its kind in this broad Dominion; and with which is now affiliated a Hall in Divinity, equipped with a staff of three professors, scholars whose praise is in all the churches. Let me only say here in passing, that, in my belief, the maintenance of our Hall, its encouragement in every legitimate fashion, is simply indispensable to the welfare of our church in these provinces. To consent that it should die, or be merged in some other, would be to forsake the traditions which we have received from the Elders. By the name and memory of a McGregor, a McCulloch, a Ross, a Smith, a King, by hosts of considerations, to which I shall not now advert, let us uphold our Educational Institution on behalf of the ministry. For surely all this would gladden the heart of our venerated father.

But a Church living only for the supply of existing congregations is dead. How about enterprises in the direction of obeying our Master's marching orders? Dr. McGregor was, before all else, may I not say—a missionary—a Home missionary. Here, too, we might point with some gratitude to what has been done or is doing, to overtake the growing needs of our population in destitute places. No part of the Maritime Provinces owes a deeper debt of gratitude to the missionary spirit prevailing the minds of our people in connection with our settled charges, than the Presbytery of which I have the honour to be a member. Within the last year, we have ventured upon what is almost a new departure in the history of our church, ordaining as well as licensing our home missionaries, and adding in one year, thus, 8 to our staff of men, fully equipped, officially, to discharge all the functions of the ministry, within our bounds. Nova Scotia is thoroughly mapped out in this respect, and room for rapid growth there is little or none. But my Province, but P. E. I., but Cape Breton, to some extent, and Newfoundland, in one and all there is room. No more marked proof could be given of intelligent progress than that evinced (1) in the quiet success in these Provinces of the Argumentation Scheme, and (2) in the persistent liberality toward Home Extension in general. Looking still further abroad, the true spirit actuating the Fathers themselves is displayed in the French-Evangelization, and, still more