

is a matter of conscience between the worshipper and his or her Maker.

It may be, for ought we know that there are some who do not give as the Lord has prospered them and who would therefore give more under the subscription, open collection or envelope system, but our people, were they persuaded that more funds could be raised, would not adopt any other, because they believe there is not in them the same training of the conscience as in a system that does not let thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth.

By this system, praise of men, ostentation and every improper motive is removed. A proper motive arises and is encouraged by the thought that, He who commanded His disciples to give in secret sits over against the treasury, that His omniscient eye sees the motives as well as the act and that it will be accepted by Him as an offering of gratitude and love.

Never before did this system give so much satisfaction as it has since the settlement of our present pastor.

The Sabbath day offerings have paid all congregational liabilities besides our special offering being taken for the schemes of the church.

Our people have strong faith in the plan and nothing would induce them to abandon it to try any other.

Yours very truly,

JOHN MALCOM,  
*Treas. Kempt Cong.*

Halifax, Dec. 1, 1881.

*My Dear Mr. McCurdy :*

The congregation of Chalmers Church adopted the "free will offering" plan of supporting ordinances about ten years ago, and hitherto we have not in any way departed from it; nor has it failed to meet our expectations. All our people are asked to give as the Lord has prospered them; to give at all meetings for worship, on week days as well as on the Lord's Day. We have had collections at the door on prayer meeting evenings for ten years. The amounts received are small, but they are given cheerfully. We collect for the schemes of the church at the prayer meeting. We also ask persons who do not attend prayer meeting to give what they can for the schemes, placing their contributions in boxes in the aisles, provided for the purpose.

Our pews are free to all. We have had no difficulty in meeting current expenses. Our Church year ends with the 31st October. Our contributions last year

averaged \$59.97½ per Sabbath. For Missionary and Benevolent purposes we raised \$721.53.

Our congregation numbers about 200 members. It is perhaps one of the poorest in Halifax, there being no man of wealth in connection with it, and the larger majority of members and adherents being of the working classes. I do not think we could exist as a congregation under any other than the "free-will offering" plan. No account is taken by any church officer—by any one except the giver and the all-seeing Master—of what each one gives. I am bound to testify that a large number give up to the full measure of their ability. Their liberality cannot be concealed. The plan we pursue is explained from the pulpit at least twice a year. Our congregation changes with great frequency—hence instruction and training on this point must not be overlooked even for six months. None of us would wish to go back to the pew rent system. When we fall behind an intimation to that effect is given to the congregation, and the amount required is always forthcoming.

Yours very truly,

ROBERT MURRAY.

### Report of Mission Work : Guysboro.

#### TO THE PRESBYTERY OF PICTOU :

I herewith submit my report of work done in the Mission Stations along the Guysboro' coast during the present season.

I spent ten Sabbaths between Country Harbor and Isaac's Harbor, dividing the time equally between them. There are two preaching stations in the Country Hr. district, one at the new Presbyterian church near the Cross Roads, and the other nine miles further down the river at an Episcopal church which is open to all comers.

At Lower Country Harbor three services were held.

I spent at Isaac's Harbor what is equivalent to five Sabbaths. For liberality our people at this station are deserving of the highest praise. During the present season they have done much towards paying off the debt upon the church besides contributing handsomely to the Home Mission fund. Many miners are coming into the place now and we may reasonably hope that some of them will be Presbyterians. Regular supply should be provided for every fourth or sixth Sabbath if the cause in