

raised to £6500, and that given to the Episcopalians is to be reduced, at each vacancy, until the annual grant becomes £3000. But no one who can read the signs of times, thinks that the above arrangement can long continue. Already the Episcopalians are dissatisfied and agitating for larger grants. But probably the next real agitation about this matter, will take place not at the prompting of the Episcopalians or the Roman Catholics demanding an equalization of the grants, but of those uneasy voluntaries, who cannot rest till all endowments are swept away.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGA- TION OF MABOU, C. B.

The Rev. Dr. McGregor of Pictou, preached in the house of Mr. Worth, S. E. Mabou, in the year 1819. when Mr. Benjamin Smith, then a young man aged 21 heard his first sermon and was baptized.

THE CONGREGATION ORGANIZED.

The congregation of Mabou and Port Hood in connection with the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia was organized in 1821. Shortly afterwards steps were taken towards securing a minister. The movers in this matter were Lewis Smith, David Smith, Ben Worth, Reuben Young, and afterwards the Hon W McKeen.

THE FIRST MINISTER.

The first Minister was Mr. William Millar of the Parish of Tarbolton, Ayrshire, Scotland. Mr. Millar was licensed to preach the Gospel by the Presbytery of Truro on the 28th day of June, 1821, and was ordained and inducted into the Pastoral charge of the Congregation of Mabou and Port Hood by a deputation of Pictou Presbytery in June 1822. The ordination took place in the house of Mr. Isaac Smith, Port Hood. Mr. Millar was the first Presbyterian minister settled on the Island of Cape Breton.

At the same time three elders were ordained by James Hawley, of Mabou, and Mr. W. Watts and John Smith of Port Hood.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed for the first time at Mabou July 13th 1823, when there were thirteen communicants. Four more were added the next year. The Sacrament of

the Lord's Supper was not dispensed at Port Hood till August 1845, and even then there was not a communicant living in that Section of the Congregation.

A church was built at Mabou in 1824. A keen discussion on the question of Baptism was carried on during the years 1844-45. To check the proselytising spirit of the Baptists and to instruct and establish the Presbyterians in the faith, the Rev. John Campbell, of St. Marys, N. S., was sent for. It is amusing now to hear some of the old inhabitants of Mabou relate the incidents that occurred during those exciting times and of the manner in which Mr. Campbell demolished his opponents. There were few men in the Province as able to discuss with effect the question. Mr. Millar resigned the charge of the congregation in 1850, but he continued to preach for some years afterwards. He died, Nov. 17th 1861, aged 75. His widow still lives.

Rev. James McLean was ordained and inducted into the Pastoral charge on the 13th November 1824. and after 5 years hard and successful work moved to Shubenacadie. He is now the highly esteemed minister of Great Village.

Rev. A. McDonald was ordained in the spring of 1861 and returning to Scotland in 1864, he demitted his charge in 1865.

Rev. W. Sinclair was ordained Nov. 7th 1865 and died Feb. 4th 1870, after a protracted illness. Though not a very able preacher he was much liked as a man. During those years the congregation was growing, though a small charge among a dense Roman Catholic population is not favorably situated for growth either in numbers or spirituality.

After a vacancy of over four years the Rev. A. F. Thompson was ordained on the 8th September 1874. Having received a call to the congregation of Economy and Five Islands, he left Mabou in March 1879. When Mr. Thompson took charge of the Congregation there were sixty names on the Communion Roll, and when he left there were 191 names; thus there was a very large addition during his ministry of a little over four years. For the last three years the congregation has been vacant, though repeated efforts have been made to secure a minister.

Mabou is a spirited congregation. The people are not wealthy, but they are liberal.

The Clerk of Presbytery in referring to the visitation of the congregation on the 14th Sept. 1875 says: "The Pas-