

time. Stellarton, Pictou, is one of this nature, having had but twenty years of existence in its separate capacity. Twenty years, however, may tell of rapid increase and of great work achieved in the Master's service.

On the 13th June, 1865, a petition was presented to the Pictou Presbytery from the pew-holders, asking that a Probationer be placed over them for three months. No definite action was taken on this petition for some time, and it was followed by another on the 9th Jan., 1866, asking that a new congregation be formed. Previous to this time the adherents of our church at and around Stellarton worshipped in one of the three Presbyterian churches in New Glasgow.

But that there was plenty of material for a new congregation is evident from the fact that they could provide what was then deemed a competent support for a pastor without aid from the Supplementing Fund. Nor did the new born child weaken the parent churches from which it sprung. By extra efforts the subscription lists of the New Glasgow congregations were increased, so that the loss of adherents at the Albion Mines was more than fully met by enlarged contributions. At a meeting of Presbytery held at New Glasgow on the 6th March, 1886, Rev. Alex. Ross, Pictou, reported that he had organized a congregation at Albion Mines.

Thus fairly launched it entered upon its new relationship, and there are three distinct periods in its history. Unlike some of our congregations the infant was not harassed with a protracted vacancy. Only a few weeks elapsed after its formation when their eyes saw their teacher. A young man who was finishing his college course that year became the object of their choice, and in three months after their organization he was settled.

#### THE REV. A. J. MOWATT

was the first pastor, and was ordained and inducted on the 5th June, 1866. At the time of Mr. Mowatt's settlement the congregation numbered 107 families, about 80 communicants, and promised and paid a yearly salary of \$600. During his ministry at Stellarton there was steady growth in the congregation, and contributions to the schemes of the church increased.

After laboring for a period of seven years, in 1873 Mr. Mowatt received and

accepted a call to Windsor. He left a deeply attached people, and though the removal of the first pastor inflicted a heavy blow yet the congregation did not give up. There was not a long continued vacancy, which so often proves disastrous, but immediately they rallied their forces and put forth an effort to secure another pastor. In due time a call was given and the minister chosen accepted.

This brings us to the second period in their history, the settlement of the

#### REV. THOMAS CUMMING,

on the 31st Dec., 1873. The same steady growth as under the first pastor was still witnessed. Earnestness and zeal also characterized the labors of Mr. Cumming. The congregation continued to hold the prominent position which it had won from the time of its formation. Mr. Cumming continued his labors for ten years, when he was translated to St. Joseph's Church, Montreal, March 18th, 1883.

And now the third and trying period in the history of the congregation arrives. A vacancy of nearly three years occurs. Several attempts made to obtain a pastor proved failures. And yet notwithstanding disappointments, repeated efforts to secure a settlement, and a long vacancy, there seemed to be no retrograde movement. Regular supply was given, prompt payments made, there were accessions to the church, and contributions made to church schemes.

On the 17th November, 1885, the present pastor was settled,

#### REV. J. H. TURNBULL,

of Fall River, Mass. Since Mr. Turnbull's settlement the congregation has trebled its membership, having now 400 communicants. With the exception of West River and Green Hill it has the largest Communion roll of any congregation in Pictou Presbytery. Last year there were 78 accessions, and the 107 families at the time of the formation of the congregation have grown to 180, and a larger church is now needed.

One hopeful feature of the congregation is the number of young men in connection with it which must prove an element of stability and prosperity. We trust that its growth and success during the next twenty years may be as great as during the twenty that are past.—COM.