

of \$4.00 was taken up. We called on both the McLeod families, who are noble Kirk folk, and passed the night with Alexander. On Friday we took the cars for Riversdale, and had a meeting there in the evening in the Spool Factory. The meeting was not so largely attended as on former occasions, as more than forty men had left a few days ago who had been employed in the work in the factory and other business. A collection of \$4.00 was realized here, although very few of the men belong to our church. Thus I have given a brief account of my visitation of the Halifax Presbytery.

West River, April 20th, 1869.

JOHN GOODWILL.

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### LIBERALITY IN ST. JOHN, N. B.

In the history of our Church in these Provinces we have seldom had to refer to such princely liberality, as that displayed in connection with the Rev. Mr. Caie's new Church, Portland, St. John, N. B., by the Hon. John Robertson and the heirs of the late John Duncan. In the hope that many of our readers may learn to "go and do likewise," we give a brief notice of what has been done.

There was a fund amounting to several thousand dollars (\$7000 or \$9000, we do not remember which,) in the hands of the Commissioners of the old St. Stephen's Church, St. John, which was to go towards building a second Church in the city. As the neighbouring Parish of Portland required Church accommodation more than the city, the Commissioners agreed to build, as near the most crowded part of that Parish as possible, while at the same time they kept, as they were obliged to do, within the bounds of the city. Mr. Caie, on his part, undertook to raise the rest of the money that would be required for a handsome brick and stone church. None gave to him more liberally than the two gentlemen we have already named, while as Commissioners they gave also their time to superintend the erection of the building. Last autumn the Church was opened. There was a debt on it, and the basement was unfinished, and as it was the aim of the Commissioners to hand it over in the spring free of debt, to the congregation that Mr. Caie was forming, every one expected that the finishing of the basement, at any rate, would be left to the new Congregation. But, in the most spirited manner, the Commissioners ordered that also to be proceeded with. Then, at the beginning of the winter, a heavy blow fell on them. Owing to defective drainage, one side of the building began to sink. To remedy this and prevent its recurrence, a larger sum had to be spent. And so when all was done, and the accounts made up last month, it was found that there was a debt of nearly \$7000,—not a very heavy sum on a Church worth \$25,000, but heavy enough to discourage and drag down a poor and young congregation. It must be paid, said the Commissioners, before it goes out of our hands. The hon. John Robertson stepped forward, and with one word gave \$3,800 of it; and the heirs of the late John Duncan, gave about \$1900 on condition that the remaining \$1200 were raised. Of that, Mr. Caie has received \$600 already, and has no doubt that in a month or two he will get the rest. It does us good to hear of such acts. They would be worthy of all praise even if those gentlemen were building a Church for themselves to worship in; for many will spend money freely for the gratification of self even in things pertaining to the house of God. But those acts appear in their true light when we remember that Mr. Duncan to the day of his death was an elder in and a pillar of St. Andrew's Church; and that Mr. Robertson is also an elder and trustee of that church, and ever foremost in supporting its schemes of Christian benevolence. To him, too, the erection of the Kirk at Rothesay is chiefly due—the site and the greater part of the money having been given by him, when Dr. Donald proved the necessity for a Church there, by preaching in the Railway Station-house for several summers and gathering a congregation.