

first communion, a lady, now residing near St. Marys, walked with her husband and several lady friends, all barefooted, over five miles to the meeting.

The wine used on the same occasion was procured by two young men, Wm. McGregor and John Weir, of Blanchard, who walked barefooted the entire distance to London—about 30 miles—to obtain it.

Rude were their surroundings, but, prompted by warm hearts, they gave freely of their best to God's servant. It may not always have been in coin of the realm that their first pastor was paid, for the ways of raising money were limited to such works as the making of black salts, and harvesting in Dumfries, but equally appreciated were the donations of hay and oats, or other products of the soil.

After a period of active and faithful service, extending over four years, Mr. Proudfoot withdrew from his charge, being called to succeed his father in London.

Happily the vacancy of the charge was brief. On October 7th, 1852, Mr. Caven, who some years afterwards became the well-known Principal of Knox College, was ordained as pastor of Downie and St. Marys. For four years he continued the efficient pastor of a united people, but St. Marys having grown stronger, became desirous of having the undivided services of Mr. Caven, and on July 2nd a petition signed by 56 names was presented to Presbytery asking that they be separated from Downie. Both congregations were invited to appear before Presbytery which met at London on August 13th, 1856, but, Downie not appearing, it was regarded to be agreeable to the separation, and so the connection between St. Marys and