

warm hearted boy's affections were at once enlisted, and on the following sabbath he eagerly listened to the words of life, and though he never heard him to profess to say exactly at what time he first found the Saviour, yet deep impressions were then made upon his mind. From that time and to his latest days he loved to tell of his first meeting with that eminent servant of Christ, and the first preaching on the Middle River. To him he soon became warmly attached; and though he learned to value highly other faithful ministers, yet first love was strongest, and he never wearied in telling of the character and labours of that devoted missionary.

In the summer of 1800, nearly sixty-three years ago, when in his twenty-sixth year, which was then, and to so me extent, is yet, considered among the Highlanders a very early age, at which to partake of the Lord's Supper, he made a profession of religion, so that he would be among the oldest communicants in the Province, and few men during the whole period of his christian profession, have borne a more stainless name.

In the year 1795, the Rev. Duncan Ross arrived, and for a few years laboured jointly with Dr. McGregor, as minister of Pictou, but in the year 1801 a division took place by which the Middle River fell to Mr Ross. In October 1803, when 29 years of age, he was ordained at Middle River as an Elder, and continued to fill that office till his death, first in the congregation of West River under the ministry of Mr. Ross and his son, and subsequently in the congregation of Salem Church. He thus only wanted a few months of having filled that important office for the long period of sixty years. He was undoubtedly at the time of his death the oldest elder in the Presbyterian church in this Province, and few men have so long filled that office with such general approval.

In all the relations of life Mr. Douglass won the respect of his fellow men. But the features of character by which he was especially marked were his affectionate tenderness of heart, guileless simplicity of character, and unaffected humility. His heart overflowed with kindly emotions, and his benevolence was never appealed to in vain.

"He was an Israelite indeed in whom is no guile," and yet seemed unconscious of the excellence which attracted to him the regard of his fellow men. He loved the habitation of God's house, and until the present winter, when his increasing infirmity, and the state of the weather and roads prevented his regular attendance, his place in the sanctuary was seldom vacant. And it was good to see him there. His manly form—which was scarcely bent even by the weight of four score years, his snow white head,—his benevolent countenance, which so quickly revealed every passing emotion within, and down which, under the preaching of Christ crucified, tears freely coursed, formed an encouragement to the minister, and a lesson to his fellow hearers. He was given to hospitality, and we may say that hundreds partook of bountiful fare and kindly shelter under his roof. He was a lover of good men. In the days of his strength, he was closely associated with the first ministers of Pictou, and often travelled with them on their journeys to preach the word, and to attend sacraments or meetings of Presbytery. He was present at the formation of the first Synod in 1817, and again was present (the last time he sat as a member of a church court) at the Union in October, 1860. He was emphatically a lover of Zion, and experienced the fulfilment of the promise, "they shall prosper that love thee." He never grudged his time to the affairs of the church, and was always ready to give of his substance, as God prospered him, for maintaining and promoting religion in his own neighbourhood; and in all the measures for the extension of God's cause abroad, he took a lively interest. He conducted a Sabbath school from the time these institutions were first established in the County of Pictou, till the last year of his life, a period of more than forty years. When the first Bible Society was formed in Pictou embracing the whole county, he was one of the directors and collectors for the Middle River, and the last surviving office bearer. In the Foreign Mission of our church his heart was deeply interested. Tears often filled his eyes as he read or heard of the trials of our Missionaries or of the great things which God had done through their instrumentality. What a contrast did the state of the church now present compared with what it was in the days of his boyhood, when there was not a Presbyterian minister either on the whole North coast of Nova Scotia, or in Cape Breton or in P. E. Island.