

THE  
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**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.**

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**HISTORICAL SKETCHES.**

No. I.—CONCLUDED.

**PRESBYTERIANISM IN LUNENBURG.**

Mr. Comingo entered zealously upon the duties of his office, and continued faithfully to discharge them for a period of nearly fifty years, although he was 46 years of age at the time of his ordination. His preaching is spoken of by those who recollect him as having a sweet savour of Christ, and in his manner he is said to have been earnest and tender, being readily moved to tears in his public ministrations. He was also diligent in the discharge of the more private duties of the pastoral office. Like all Hollanders he had in early life been an excellent skater, and this accomplishment new served him in good stead in visiting and performing other pastoral services among his flock, scattered as they were along the bays, rivers and Islands for which this county is distinguished.

The people manifested throughout his ministry a warm attachment to him. They flocked from all quarters, in boats in summer, or on the ice in winter, to attend his preaching. The services were, we need scarcely say, entirely in German, Mr. C. never having become so familiar with the English language as to attempt to conduct service in it; and we may imagine with what delight they would they listen in the land of their exile to the message of life, in the old familiar tone of their mother tongue, and how many tender associations it would recall of the home of their childhood.—They also contributed according to their

means for his support. When he was settled among them it was under an arrangement that each family should contribute so much grain, cordwood, &c. He also received a small grant for some years from a fund which had been collected shortly before, principally in Britain, to aid Protestant dissenting Ministers. As his congregation increased in numbers and wealth, they provided liberally for his wants, but their payments were still to a large extent in kind. Every fall they brought in liberal supplies of farm produce, so that for the country at that time, he may be said to have been comfortably maintained.

We have before us an interesting account of Lunenburg, drawn up in the year 1795, by a minister who visited them. We shall extract that part of it descriptive of the moral and religious character of the people and the forms of worship among the Presbyterians.

“There are three places of worship in this small town near to one another, the Church of England, the Dutch Calvinists, and the Lutherans. They are all supplied with ministers. The minister of the Church of England is paid from home, as the other clergy of that description are. But the other two are supported by their people, by a voluntary subscription. The Lutherans are the most numerous, next to them are the Calvinists. The Dutch Calvinists cleave to Calvin's doctrine, or in other words, to the doctrines of the Scriptures; and are of the same principles with the Church of Scotland, or the doctrines contained in the Westminster Confession of