

not belong to the church of England, and all the influence of the House of Assembly was powerless to secure them such a privilege.

The three returned to their native Provinces that summer (1825), and were soon after called and settled, Mr. McLean at Richibucto, N. B. Mr. Murdoch at Windsor, and Mr. Patterson at Bedeque, P. E. I. The call of the latter is dated the 4th Nov. and he was ordained on the 22nd March 1826. These three may be considered the first fruits of the native Presbyterian ministry in these Provinces, and how abundant and rich has been the harvest since. The Jewish first fruits were regarded as the choicest and best, and if we may not in this case make a comparison of this kind, we may say that they were all superior men, alike in spirit, but yet each having his peculiar excellence. Mr. McLean was the orator among them. His ardent impetuous nature found expression in an impassioned address in the pulpit and incessant labours outside, which gave him a first rank as a preacher and missionary in these Provinces. And Murdoch—who that knew him does not cherish among his most pleasing memories, the remembrance of him as the soul of all that was brave and honest and true. Patterson again was the most accurate scholar and the best student, while his gentle disposition and womanly tenderness drew all hearts.

They may be said to have settled at that time the question of training a native ministry in these Provinces. Those who had gone into the measure with doubt and fear now had their confidence established. To many of the common people, among whom the idea was common that only in Scotland could ministers be produced, their success caused wonder and rejoicing. The ardent promoters of the scheme now had the most sanguine hopes of the future, but alas their very success only inflamed opposition to the Institution, and the fact that it was furnishing ministers to the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia was made by sectarian rancor the ground of accusation against it.

#### CHANGES.

In noting the date of his ordination we can scarcely help thinking of the changes since that time, and the contrast presented by the state of things at the close of his ministry. At that time George the IV was on the throne of England, and Victoria was a girl in her 7th year and Gladstone was a boy of fifteen toiling at his school boy task. In England the

Catholics were not emancipated from legal disabilities while the worst of those upon Protestant Dissenters had only just been removed, and it was still considered almost revolutionary to advocate Reform in the British parliament. Steam navigation was in its infancy, there being one steamboat in these Lower Provinces, while ocean steam navigation was so far in the distance that years later a man of science undertook to prove that it was practically impossible. There was not a mile of railroad in the world, and the locomotive engine was still to come. As to Electric Telegraphs or Telephones, they could scarcely have been imagined.

As to his own field, a writer in the Summerside Pioneer says, "When he settled in Bedeque there was not a wagon in the parish, nor a mile of road suitable for one to run on. There was no post-office nearer than Charlottetown, (about forty miles distant). The country round was an almost unbroken forest, with here and there a few acres of cleared land—if stump covered acres can be said to be clear. There was no regular communication with the main land. He lived to see the forest swept away, and the howling wilderness in Prince Edward Island become the most densely peopled rural section of the Dominion. He lived to witness and enjoy the triumphs of steam communications by sea and land. He lived to hear of the triumph of British arms in the land of the Pharaohs, on the very day on which that triumph had been achieved. When George III. died in England, it was nearly six weeks before the event was known in Prince Edward Island; but when Wolseley conquered the Egyptian rebels, we read of his exploits in P. E. Island before the blood of the slain was dry on the Egyptian sands."

(To be concluded in our next.)

#### RETIREMENT OF REV. M. STEWART.

The Rev. M. Stewart a few months ago resigned the pastoral charge of the congregation of Whyccomah On Sabbath, 2nd Oct., he preached his farewell sermon to a crowded audience of at least a thousand people.

The following Monday a prayer meeting was held in the church at which he again presided, the congregation being all present. Four men, elders, elected some few days previously, were ordained.