

CORRESPONDENCE.

SOUTH CORNWALLIS, March 16th 1864.

Rev. and Dear Sir,

As many friends in your Congregation have expressed to me an earnest desire that you would publish the discourse on the Transfiguration, preached by you on the late Sacramental occasion in the old Church, Cornwallis, I beg to be regarded now as their organ in asking this favour, and in the full hope that you will accede to our wishes in this matter, I would avail myself of this opportunity, not to make any remarks upon your excellent Sermon, which, as we are well aware, was just one of your *ordinary* preparations for the Pulpit,—but of offering a few observations upon the history of the Church of which you are now the Pastor.

The District of Cornwallis, besides its many natural beauties and advantages, has long enjoyed a faithfully preached Gospel—a privilege, we fear, that is not sufficiently appreciated in our day. I think I may still say that our people love the manly old Scotch Theology when fervently proclaimed—that theology which most abases the sinner and exalts the free sovereign grace of God in salvation. Many persons may not be aware that the old Church in which we still worship, owes its origin and existence to the piety of the “Pilgrim Fathers, who were driven by high-handed tyranny to seek freedom of conscience and liberty of worship in foreign lands, and who arrived by the schooner “Mayflower,” and landed on Plymouth Rock, A.D. 1620.” It appears from the town records of Lebanon, that their immediate descendants came to Cornwallis in 1760 or 1762. Immediately upon their arrival—following the worthy example of their fathers who founded Churches in New England—they, with most commendable zeal, set about the erection of a “House” (to use their own language) “for the worship of Almighty God.” Our Church edifice is, therefore, a Puritan erection—and about one hundred years old—the oldest indeed within the Township. On completion of the building, the congregation followed the practice which was generally adopted in those days of selecting a minister, when the people were partly Presbyterian and partly Congregationalist; in which case they chose a Pastor belonging to the larger body. The first minister of the Church in Cornwallis therefore, was the Rev. Mr. Phelps, Congregationalist. He remained in the country but a short time, and was succeeded by the Rev. Hugh Graham, a Secession minister from Scotland. He commenced his labours here in 1785. In 1799 he received a call from Stewiacke, and removed to that place, and continued to labour there with much acceptance to the period of his death, which event occurred in the year 1829. Mr. Graham was followed by the Rev. Wm. Forsyth, a licentiate of the Church of Scotland, and who was ordained in the United States. His ministry in Cornwallis extended over a period of