

danger of losing his early impressions, and of being led by those fashionable "communications which corrupt good manners." With him it was early a maxim to endeavour to excel, whether it were study, pastime or social pleasure, in which he was engaged; and the dangers to which he was at this time exposed are forcibly set forth by the Rev John L. Murdoch, of Windsor, in the following language, "Mr McLean and myself were classmates almost from the time we entered the Grammar School until we finished our studies. We entered the Divinity Hall together, and were licensed about the same time. We travelled to Britain and returned together, and it is probable that I had as good an opportunity of becoming acquainted with his character as any other person. His talents were above mediocrity, and by diligence in his studies he had made himself a very respectable classical scholar. About the time of finishing his Academical studies he fell into gay company, and was in danger of contracting habits which might have led to his ruin. We all saw the dangerous ground upon which he stood, and were concerned for his safety. But the bands which would have led him astray were dispersed. He returned to his father's house to prosecute his theological studies, and here and about this time his mind took a decidedly pious turn. After being ordained to the office of the ministry, and conversing together about past events, he has told me that when he looked back he trembled to think of the precipice on which he once stood, and from which he was delivered by the grace of God alone. Any eminence to which he afterward attained I ascribe, not so much to any superiority of talent which he possessed, as to his deep toned piety, which gave a solemnity and impressiveness to all his ministrations, and indeed to all the acts of his life, both public and private."

II. FROM HIS LICENSURE TO HIS ORDINATION.

As the first-fruits of the Pictou Academy, and of the theological instructions of Dr McCulloch, under the direction of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, he, in company with the Rev Messrs. John L. Murdoch, Angus McGilvray and Robert Simm Patterson, was on the 8th day of June, 1824, by the Presbytery of Pictou licensed to preach the gospel.—During the autumn of that year he visited Britain, and, as stated by the Rev R. S. Patterson, of Bedeque, Prince Edward Island, "On Tuesday, the 15th of February, 1825, Mr McLean, in connection with Mr Murdoch and myself, received from the University of Glasgow the degree of A. M. Previous to this we were examined by Professors Walker, Sandford, Jardine, Miller, Mylne and Meickleham. Mr McLean acquitted himself well in the several branches of learning on which we were examined. He shewed himself to be well-deserving of the literary honor conferred upon him. His pulpit exhibitions in Britain would have been creditable to one who had been longer in the ministry. By competent judges they were considered as indicative of future usefulness."

After visiting London and other principal places in Britain, he with the gentlemen above named returned to Pictou, and in the autumn of 1825 he was sent to visit the scattered (resident) Presbyterians around the Bay de Chaleurs. The difficulties and dangers to which on this journey he was exposed, not "by flood and field," but by flood and forest, and "by perils in the wilderness," I could here to some extent particularize, as I visited nearly the