

date there were no 'Weslains' in this place, all belonging to the Church except the Roman Catholics. I am happy to say that Mr. Ackerman did what lay in his power to keep the congregation steadfast even after the Weslain (Wesleyan presumably) preachers settled here. I am pretty clear that no minister of the Established Church ever preached or was here from the year 1776 until the year 1823, when the Rev. John Leigh came here from the northward and remained one Sunday and then went on. But before that period Mr. Ackerman had paid the debt of nature. At so low an ebb was religion at this place about the time of Mr. Ackerman's death, that he had often told me before I became resident, that if he should die, he did not know any persons who could read the burial service over him. It fell at last on the writer to perform the mournful service over him on the 27th June, 1822. From that time until the arrival of the Rev. John Leigh the writer did the duty of the Church and at intervals until the summer of 1840."

Bonavista, Dec. 1, 1840

THOMAS GAYLOR

Of course this doleful picture of Mr. Gaylor is only in reference to the moral condition, we presume, of his own church. Methodism had had regular stationed ministers for twenty-three years, and a very large membership at this time. Methodism could have found a good living man to read the burial service over Mr. Ackerman. There was a Methodist Minister in the place at the time of his death. Mr. Ackerman was undoubtedly speaking of the low moral ebb of his own communion. He was too much of a gentleman to cast an aspersion upon another religious denomination!

During the missionary labors of the Rev. Mr. Peasley in Bonavista and St. John's, from 1741 to 1752, great things were happening on the other side of the Atlantic. John Wesley on May 24th, 1738, had experienced that change of heart that so puzzled Nicodemus "the Master in Israel." One of Mr. Wesley's preachers in 1764, had visited Harbor Grace and saw the spiritual destitution of Conception Bay. He returned to England with a petition from the inhabitants of the Bay metropolis, and succeeded, by the help of Mr. Wesley and Lady Huntingdon, in securing Holy Orders at