

were strengthened after an interval by the arrival of Rev. Mr. Herdman for Pictou, and three able young men, natives of Nova Scotia, who had completed their studies in Scotland. These were G. W. Spratt, Alex. McLean and Alexander McKay. Others followed, and at the time of which we write the Synod was again recruited and vigorously grappling with its work.

The latest comer of the three was the Free Church. It originated in 1844, out of sympathy with the principles and contentions of the Free Church of Scotland. It was at first numerically weak; but it was early visited and fostered by influential deputations from the Free Church at home. Among those who came in this capacity were Rev. Hugh McLeod and Rev. Alexander Forrester, both of whom accepted calls to inviting fields within the Synod, and placed the Church under lasting obligations by their counsels and labors. Dr. Burns of Paisley, and Dr. Begg of Liberton, also visited the Church in those days. These men were very unlike each other, but they were both princely men. Burns was in stature short and broadly built, with a countenance, not strikingly handsome, but strongly indicative of physical, and intellectual power. We well remember how that face beamed almost with beauty as he spoke of the old land; and how he captured our sympathies and stirred our emotions when he told the tale of suffering and self-sacrifice on the part of Free Church Ministers and congregations. Begg was a very different man. He was tall, and of magnificent physique. His address did not make us weep, but it strongly prompted us to fight. He abounded in denunciations of those who, as he believed, had been lacking in loyalty to the King, and fidelity to the Church of Scotland. The impression still lingers how the term, "Residuaries," rung out again and again. Perhaps, some of us had but a vague idea as to the exact meaning of the term, but every one felt quite sure that it meant *something very very bad*.

These deputations were followed by men and means, and the Free Church Synod soon attained proportions which placed it midway between the other two. Its most prominent members were Rev. John Stewart New Glasgow, M. Stewart, J. Fraser, A. Farquharson, Hugh McLeod and A. Wilson, Cape Breton, Forrester of Halifax, Duff of Lunenburg, and Struthers of Cornwallis, Sutherland and Blair and Campbell, and Munro and Bethune were soon added.

These three independent Synods confronted each other. They occupied the same ground and aimed to accomplish the same work. They had no defined conterminous boundaries. In every settlement, and in many families, they were intermingled. There was little affection between