

THE
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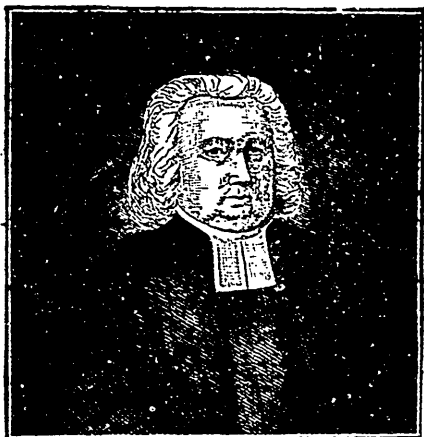
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Rev. Bruin Romcas Comingo :
 THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN MINISTER ORDAINED
 IN CANADA.



WE have much pleasure in placing before the readers of the *Record*, a portrait of the first Presbyterian minister ordained in British North America. Halifax, Nova Scotia, was founded in 1749. During the succeeding five or six years, over 1,400 immigrants arrived, chiefly German, Swiss, and French Protestants, who were induced to come to Nova Scotia by the prospects held

out to them by the British Government; and in the case of the French, by the desire to escape from persistent persecution. Most of these immigrants were settled in the county of Lunenburg, on the Atlantic coast. An Episcopal Church was built for them by the government in the town of Lunenburg, in 1754. Many of the immigrants were of the reformed or Presbyterian faith, and refused to identify themselves with the Episcopal body. Not till 1769 was a Presbyterian Church erected. The work had to be done without the aid of the government; and the subscriptions of the people were not quite sufficient. They accordingly sent a delegate to Germany for aid, and he returned with some money, and with a communion service, which is still in use and is highly prized.

They had tried to get from abroad a minister of the reformed persuasion, but failed in all their efforts. Very wisely, they then chose one of their own number to be their pastor, and the man of their choice was BRUIN ROMCAS COMINGO, a sturdy fisherman then living at Chester, a small village some twenty-five miles eastward from Lunenburg. Comingo was a native of Holland and was born in 1723. Though without a classical education, he was well versed in scripture and in practical theology, and was a fluent, impressive and edifying speaker.