

Articles Contributed.

Old St. Andrew's, Halifax.

This venerable old building was closed on Sunday the 2nd inst. Divine service was held at the usual hours, 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. The Rev. John Campbell, Pastor of the Charge, conducted the morning, and the Rev. Geo. M. Grant, of St. Matthew's, the evening service. Unusually large congregations assembled on both occasions to take farewell of the old church around which so many sacred associations cling. Many who have long since ceased to worship within its walls, and who have gone to other communions of the Christian Church, embraced this opportunity of once more and for the last time worshipping in the church in which they were dedicated to God in baptism, and in which they communed for the first time the Communion Table in remembering the death and dying love of their blessed Redeemer.

At morning service Mr. Campbell chose for his text Psalm 37, 5: "If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning." In his discourse he showed that the remembrance to be cherished was the remembrance of sacred associations. He then took up the history of the Charge from its commencement; and as this history will be read with interest by many of the readers of the *Record*, we give a summary of the same. We feel assured of this because St. Andrew's has perhaps had the most varied history of any congregation in the Province. Its origin dates as far back as the spring of 1817, when "a number of pious and well-disposed individuals residing in Halifax in Nova Scotia, having felt deeply the want of gospel ordinances, met and resolved mutually to use all proper means to have a Presbyterian Church formed in the town of Halifax, wherein they themselves and others of good moral and religious character might enjoy the privileges and advantages of a stated ministry, and the word and ordinances of the gospel according to the appointment of Christ Jesus their Lord and the constitution of His New Testament Church; they, therefore, early in the spring of 1817 drew up a statement of their views and

resolutions, and in way of petition laid it before the Synod of the Relief Church, which met on the 14th day of May that year at Edinburgh, in Scotland, and requested to be received and nourished as a forming congregation in immediate connection with the Relief Body."

The Relief Synod heard and considered favorably the request of the people of Halifax, N. S., a committee was at once appointed, and one of their number, the Rev. Henry Paterson, of Gateside, in the Presbytery of Dumfries, was induced to come out to organize the congregation, this being deemed a course of action preferable to sending out a Licentiate. He sailed from Leith in the brig "Skeene," March 23, 1818, and arrived in Halifax on the 15th of May, after a passage of 53 days. On the following Sunday, May 18, 1818, he opened the church, and entered immediately upon the discharge of his duty. After Apostolic example (Acts 14: 23) he appointed Elders. He found that one of the congregation, James Scott, was already an Elder of the Church of Scotland; him he admitted; and two others, James Leishman and George Booth, he ordained on the 20th of Aug., 1818, after serving an Edict in regular form. The Session thus constituted met for the first time eight days thereafter. He dispensed the first Communion on the 18th of October of the same year, of which 58 communicants partook. Having discharged the duty entrusted to him, he returned to Scotland, sailing from Halifax Oct. 25, 1818.

The next minister sent out was the Rev. Thomas Gilfillan McInnes, a man of superior talent, indomitable energy, and broad catholic views. He landed Nov. 6, and preached for the first time Nov. 8, 1818. He seeing no cause for maintaining a separation in the colonies for a supposed grievance which could never come beyond the shores of Scotland, at once had the name "Relief Church" changed to "New Presbyterian Church." He thus hoped to lay the foundation of a Church that would not mould itself after any pattern in other lands. His labours were intense; and during the few months he remained in the Church it was filled to overflowing. He conducted three services every Sunday, but unfortunately the good