

grants are still living: and both they and their descendants still occupy a prominent position in the community—a position to which they are well entitled, either on account of their industry and intelligence, or for their piety.

The late Rev Duncan Ross, of the West River, Pictou, was the first Presbyterian clergymen that visited Sheet Harbour. This was about 50 years ago. I believe the late Mr Graham of Stewiacke was the next. After this they were supplied for some time by a minister from the Church of Scotland of the name of Young. About 30 years ago the Rev Mr Sprott of Musquodoboit began to pay Sheet Harbour and adjacent settlements an occasional visit—which he has continued to do to the present day. But during the last 15 years other labourers in the mission field have traversed these shores, and I can certify that the lapse of years has not obliterated the remembrance of their services.

With respect to the *prospects* of our Church along those shores it is difficult to speak. There are about 35 Presbyterian families at Sheet Harbour; about 10 more at Taylor's Head and Pope's Harbour (10 miles to the West), and about 14 at Quaddy and vicinity (14 miles to the East)—about 60 families in all. These would require the constant labours of a minister; and were they so supplied, there can be little doubt that the adherents of our Church would increase. In addition to the Presbyterians there are a few Roman Catholic and Episcopalian families at Sheet Harbour. But I believe that both united constitute a minority of the population.

The *soil* of those settlements, though rocky, is far from being barren or unproductive. Both at Sheet Harbour and Quaddy, those who carefully attend to its culture raise good crops both of hay and grain. While at Beaver Harbour and Salmon River there are farms and fields of surpassing beauty. Nothing can exceed the *richness* of the *verdure* by which these settlements are beautified during the summer months. In the autumn of 1854, when the fields throughout the counties of Pictou and Colchester were scorched and withered to such

an extent that, in some instances, people were compelled to send their cattle to the woods, the fields along these shores afforded the most luxuriant pasturage. But still the soil is so *rocky* as to render the cultivation of it extremely difficult.

It may perhaps be proper to say something respecting the state of *practical piety*. Of course it is defective. But it is necessary to bear in mind that even in your *oldest* congregations, that have had the services of a stated ministry for almost a century, there is too much spiritual deadness, as well as instances of positive wickedness and immorality. Let not the God-fearing and the pious at Sheet Harbour then be either surprised or discouraged when they hear of "sins and crimes" committed amongst them. And it is but due to our adherents in this section of the mission field to say that, in proportion to their *advantages*, the state of practical piety among them will compare favourably with other sections of our Church.

As Sheet Harbour is one of the most commodious, it is also one of the most *beautiful* Harbours that this Province can boast of. In this respect, it is no exaggeration to say that it is not excelled either by Mahone Bay or the Harbours of Halifax and Shelburne. Of course, the two former are more improved by Art. But the pride of Sheet Harbour is, that it owes the most of its charms to the bountiful hand of *Nature*.

A sheet of water, broad and deep,
Each *fir-clad* shore does lie between;
While murm'ring streams, and mountains steep,

May yearly, day by day, be seen.
The sounding shore of ocean wide
Reminds the traveller, far from home,
Of that more *distant* shore whose tide
Receives us in the world to come.
Those woody hills and sunny vales
A meek and graceful aspect wear:
Those ships, impelled by summer gales,
Adorn the prospect far and near.

I would just add that the Presbyterians at Sheet Harbour have furnished themselves with a neatly-finished place of worship. When I preached there, the attendance would average about 90.

ROBERT GRANT.

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