

generations have filled the office successively in that section of the country, from the year 1786 to the present time.

Our subject received some of his earlier mental training under a classical teacher from Oxford, Eng., and at the Pictou grammar school, under the Rev. Thomas McCulloch, D.D., and then entered the first class of the Pictou academy, at its opening, in 1818; he studied theology at the same place, under Dr. McCullough, and being licensed to preach, he went to Scotland, passed a thorough examination under the professors of Glasgow university, and received the degree of master of arts.

On his return to Nova Scotia, he was ordained (1825), and the next year was settled over the Presbyterian church at Richibucto, New Brunswick, where he labored with assiduity for seven years, and very likely went beyond his strength, as he had a great deal of missionary work to do, and frequently preached at places remote from his home; he was often obliged to travel over the poorest apologies for roads, and cross bridgeless streams to reach even all the members of his congregation, who, at that early day, were very much scattered.

Persons are still living who heard Mr. Maclean preach fifty years ago, while he was stationed at Richibucto. One of them thus speaks of the character of his sermons, and his influence as a speaker:

His sermons were sound, practical and evangelical; indicating good, though not extraordinary powers of mind; but his written publications give no idea of the impression which his delivery of them produced upon the minds of his hearers. Tall and commanding in figure, with a piercing eye, and a voice of rich melody and great compass, his appearance and manner commanded attention; and his natural earnestness would in any case have commanded the interest of his hearers. 'But his pre-eminence,' said his friend Mr. Murdoch, 'arose from his deep-toned piety, which gave solemnity and impressiveness to all his ministrations. His whole soul was on fire with sacred things, and his earnest appeals thrilled every heart; while again his tenderness and pathos melted the stoutest heart to tears.'

Half a century ago, the country where Mr. Maclean preached was not only sparsely settled and comparatively wild, but many of the people, as is customary in any new country, and especially a lumbering section, like his location, partook of the nature of the land: they, too were wild and rough, and some were profane, intemperate, and Sabbath-breakers. But he was bold and fearless, though of a kindly nature, and never, we believe, failed to rebuke sinners, or to declare the whole truth. "The homes of the farmers, the stores and camps of the lumbermen, all told the tale of strong drink and its evils." Mr. Maclean, seeing this state of things, made up his mind that it was his duty to denounce in the most public manner this traffic in alcoholic liquors, and to portray the consequences of their use; and he did it in a manner that showed the metal, the true courage of the man. He appeared before the court of sessions of the county, and with its magistracy among his hearers, preached the first temperance sermon ever heard in that part of the Province of New Brunswick. Says the writer already quoted:

He took as his text two passages, 1 Cor. vi. 9, 10: 'Be not deceived—drunkards shall not inherit the kingdom of God,' and Hab. ii. 15: 'Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink, that putteth thy bottle to him and maketh him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness.' And seldom, since the old prophets uttered their warnings in the face of the rulers of Israel, have such plain truths and thrilling appeals been thundered in the ears of men in power. Not a word of personal abuse did it contain, but a solemn reasoning of temperance and judgments to come. The result was, that while Mr. Maclean won universal esteem for his boldness and faithfulness, he was instrumental in rousing some from their lethargy and danger; and so impressed were the magistracy with his appeals, that they granted no licenses that year. At the request of a number of those who heard it delivered, his sermon was published. It was, probably, with the exception of newspaper articles, the first contribution from the press to that salutary reform, in the British Provinces; and contributed much to direct attention to the subject. We may add that this engaged his interest during the whole of his career; and an address which he delivered in the year 1833, at a quarterly meeting of the Pictou and West River societies, was published, by request, in a pamphlet of twenty-four pages.