

to be regretted that there are so few records of one who may be regarded as the pioneer of the Presbyterian Church in Nova Scotia, at a time too when the Province was in its infancy, and just emerging from the effects of a protracted war between Great Britain and France, of which it formed part of the theatre.

The chief scenes of Mr Murdoch's labors were Horton, Windsor, Cumberland and Musquodoboit. In the latter place he was accidentally drowned: and thus, a little after the prime of life, and in the midst of self-denied labors, and when the country, beginning rapidly to fill up with British settlers, was loudly crying for spiritual laborers, the Master was pleased to call him hence. In an article published anonymously in the *Acadian Recorder*, and entitled "Chronicles of Musquodoboit, 1825," is found the following paragraph: "The Rev James Murdoch preached for some years in the lower settlement, and was accidentally drowned in the river. He was an accomplished preacher. In his better days he carried the palm of popularity at Horton and Windsor."

From the manuscripts before me it is apparent that his powers of analysis were good, and that he combined most happily the *doctrinal* and the *practical* in his pulpit preparations. He does not appear to have written his discourses in full. His plan was to fix upon a good analysis, and then to jot down under each head some leading thoughts, reserving the fulness and finish for an extemporaneous effort.

My information states that he died in 1797 or in 1798: but I find upon a blank page of the manuscript which I send you a memorandum, apparently in his own handwriting, "September 1st—99;" and it is probable that it was in that year he was called to his rest. It would appear therefore that his missionary labors extended over a period of thirty-two or thirty-three years. A goodly number of Presbyterian ministers had by this time arrived and settled in the Province, all of whom have "rested from their labors." The names of McJames, Kaulback, and others, appear on the back of his manuscripts, at whose houses in Musquodoboit he was accustomed to preach, and sometimes the words "my own house," there being at that time no Churches there.

His widow survived him about thirty years, and during much of that time resided with her daughters, Mrs Duffus and Mrs Henry, in Halifax. Much of her time was spent in reading, to which she was greatly devoted, and in instructing the young members of her daughters' families. Her grandchildren fondly cherish her memory. Mr Murdoch left five sons and six daughters, of whom two daughters only are now living. Mrs Duffus, the elder of the two, at the advanced age of eighty-four years, is bearing with much resignation a protracted illness, and is thus fitly closing an exemplary life.—Mrs Henry, who, when I saw her nine years ago was full of life and activity, was for many years in Halifax successfully engaged in the instruction of young ladies, to whom her mother, though far advanced in years, often rendered efficient assistance. One of the sons was a lieutenant in the Royal Navy and died in England. Another, after an absence at sea, on entering the port of Halifax, the vessel and rigging being covered with ice, he fell from the bowsprit and was drowned. Another of the sons died in the Mediterranean. Two of his grandsons are in Halifax, one a respectable member of the Nova Scotia Bar, who, when I was a student, by the appointment of the Governor and Council, visited the Pictou Academy: and I have still a pleasing recollection of an address which he delivered on the occasion in presence of the Professor and students. The other is one of the leading mer-