

several missionary visits to New Brunswick. The Presbytery of Pictou gave no little attention to the Presbyterians of Miramichi; and in the town of Chatham a congregation was formed which continues to this day in connexion with that Presbytery.

We are not able to trace with any degree of exactness the bounds of the different fields of labour of the early preachers, and perhaps indeed they had no very carefully defined limits. Located, as they were, at very great distances from each other, each one extended his labours as far as he could, being guided by the extent of his abilities rather than by the limits of territory.

In the northern section of the Province the increase of population was comparatively rapid, stimulated no doubt by the facilities for lumbering on the Miramichi and the various streams emptying into the Bay Chaleurs. From the year 1816 till his death in 1830, however, in this vast region there was but one Presbyterian minister, the Rev. JAMES THOMSON.—Alone in a region of country as large as one-half of Nova Scotia, there was little danger of his encroaching upon the parochial rights of his neighbours. The inhabitants of the valleys and tributaries of the river St. John were principally loyalists from the United States—among whom there were very few Presbyterians. A Presbyterian settlement, however, was made on the Nashwaak, one of the tributaries of the St. John, by the officers and men of a disbanded regiment of Scotch Highlanders. One of Dr. McGregor's visits to New Brunswick was to this people.

#### A SCOTCH SETTLEMENT.

The New Brunswick banks of the St. Croix and the neighbouring districts were settled early in the present century by an immigration of Highlanders from Assynt and Edrachellis in the north of Scotland.—These families left Scotland with the intention of settling in South Carolina; but rumors of the prevalence of yellow fever among the inhabitants of that State induced them to seek a home in a more northerly clime. After many wanderings they settled ultimately in the neighbourhood of the St. Croix. They were soon joined by fresh

accessions from the fatherland. They were of course Presbyterians. They were for many years without a settled ministry, but the spiritual wants of the people were cared for by a number of eminently pious men who regularly held public meetings for reading, prayer, and christian fellowship.—The Rev. Peter McIntyre, an able and devout man, in course of time became their pastor. He was a man of profound piety, and in his native Gaelic is said to have been singularly eloquent. He died about 1837, as we are informed by one who knew him well and who loves to recall incidents of his devoted ministry.

By this time the cause of Presbyterianism in all the above named sections of the country had made considerable progress. Ministers had been settled at New Castle and Chatham, at Blackville and Richibucto, at Fredericton, at St. Stephens and St. Andrew's, and a Synod was organized in connexion with the Church of Scotland.

#### THE DISRUPTION.

From this time we find little of interest in the history of New Brunswick Presbyterianism till the year 1844. The conflict for religious liberty in Scotland had resulted in the disruption of 1843, and the Synod of New Brunswick, at its meeting in Chatham on the fifth of September, 1844, passed a resolution declaring their intention to remain "in connexion with the Church of Scotland as by law established." The members of the New Brunswick Synod had watched with avowed interest the progress of the great conflict, and sympathized almost to a man with the struggles and sufferings of the non-intrusion party in the Scottish Church; but when the hour of trial came the result was as we have stated.

But among the members of Synod there were a few who could not abide by it in its now declared relationships. On the 17th day of March, 1845, three of these met in the city of St. John, and after solemn prayer formally renounced their connexion with the Scottish Establishment and with the Synod of New Brunswick in a document setting forth their reasons for taking this step, and immediately formed themselves into a separate body under the designation