

necessary a circuit of twenty, or to some parts thirty miles, while smaller creeks and rivers divided other sections, and rendered intercourse between them difficult and fatiguing. Besides, there were scarcely any roads worthy of the name. The most of the travelling was along the shore, and much of it had to be performed on foot.—“There was no broad road,” says the Rev. R. S. Patterson, “upon which you could comfortably drive in your neat carriage. The best mode of travelling, open to your choice, was riding on horseback; and perhaps the roads might be such as not to admit of this, and the journey must be performed on foot. The wintry storm and the cold northern blast must often be encountered, without the defences which our Buffalo and seal fur coverings now afford us. And although the wearied guest received a cordial welcome, yet his accommodations were anything but comfortable. A hard couch, scantily covered, but ill defending him from the cold, was often his lot. But neither difficulty, nor even danger, to which he was sometimes exposed, could deter him from the faithful performance of the duties of his pastorate. You might depend upon finding him at his post at the appointed time. For punctuality, that quality so necessary in every one, but more particularly in public characters, he was remarkable.”—When we consider the local extent of his congregation; the difficulty of travelling between the different sections of it, and the backward state of the country at the time, we believe that no minister in our church, since the days of Dr. McGregor, has endured more of physical toil in the preaching of the gospel than Dr. Keir. In fact, what Dr. McGregor was in Pictou and adjacent districts, Dr. Keir was in the Island, particularly in the western part of it. Indeed these two men closely resembled one another. They had a similar work to perform, and they performed it in the same spirit of faith and zeal.

We may add that the circumstances in which Dr. Keir was placed called for the same self-denial. Like most, it not all the early ministers of our church, he had to suffer from an inadequate stipend imperfectly and irregularly paid. Even now ministers and ministers' families are often under the necessity of exercising considerable ingenuity to prevent embarrassment in their worldly circumstances. But we need not say that this was much more the case with the fathers of the church. Their households often exhibited examples of privations, patiently endured, of which the world knew nothing. With an increasing family, Dr. Keir had his full share of these. But none ever heard him complain. He patiently endured for the sake of his flock, seeking not theirs but them. And we deem it worthy of special mention, that he never relaxed in the discharge of any of his ministerial duties, in consequence of the inadequacy of support. It has too often been the case that ministers have made the inadequacy of their support an excuse for neglecting some of the duties of their office—either giving up visiting and catechising altogether, or giving little attention to the work of preparation for the pulpit. They have turned to other employments, making the work of the ministry a secondary matter, and the result has been to increase the evil complained of—to render the support still more inadequate; and often to leave a congregation to spiritual barrenness, and perhaps to send leanness to the minister's own soul. To the temptation to relax his diligence in the work to which he had devoted