

tered, much, very much, is changed. To say nothing of the change that has passed on myself, the members of this congregation who then occupied leading positions in it, and some of whom I remember well, are all away. So are the Professors under whom I studied—Keir and Smith and Ross; so are many, I may say most, of my classmates; so are all those who ministered then to this and the neighbouring congregations; Watson and Patterson of this congregation, Bayne of Pictou, Roy and Walker of New Glasgow—to mention no more—all have accomplished as hirelings their day, and have passed into the unseen world. Yes, I am sure that it is with you as it is with myself. It is with very mingled feelings that we have come together. If joy and thankfulness be the predominant feeling—as doubtless it is and ought to be—it is a joy with not a little sadness mingled with it.

Addressing myself, however, to my own immediate task, what a remarkable, what a unique, what an honourable history—let me say at the outset—is the early history of that branch of the United Church with which you as a congregation were connected at the time of which I have just spoken—the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia. In point of numbers and of material resources it was, at the first and for a considerable time, one of the smallest and weakest—perhaps the very smallest and weakest—of all the colonial Presbyterian Churches; but it appears to me that in self-reliance, in unselfishness, in public spirit, in a true appreciation of the only conditions of Christian usefulness and growth in any country, and especially, in a new country such as ours, it excelled, it far excelled them all. For example, almost from its very beginning it realized—what it took other churches long generations to discover and act upon—that in union there was strength; that, as the causes of the difference, and the feuds of the Mother Country and Churches did not exist here, so here these differences and feuds themselves should have no existence, but be buried out of sight. It saw, further, that a Church, if it would thrive in any land, must have a native ministry, and so, at an early period, it took steps to provide itself with such a ministry.

It got to see too, that a Church could never prosper so long as it remained neglectful of the marching orders of its King