

pleasure of the future historian to chronicle at the next Jubilee, fifty years hence.

Before closing, you will pardon me for referring to the noble band of Christian women, who fifty years ago were real mothers in Israel in the congregation, and whose lives shone like stars in darkness, but who have since gone home to glory, to bask forever in the refulgent rays of the Sun of Righteousness.

Without making individious distinction, I might mention among many other excellent women, who through faith obtained a good report in the Strathalbyn Congregation, the names of Mrs. John Mathewson (Bean Choir Eion Mich Eion), Mrs. James Nicholson Mrs. Neil McKinnon, (Bean N'heil Ruadh) of hospitable fame, Mrs. John McDonald, (Fion Galla Bean Eion Oig), Isabel McLeod (Nighean Dombail Gobh), Catherine McLeod (Bantrach a'tailor), Mrs. Neil McKay (Mary Og), Mrs. Malcolm Nicholson, Springton, Mrs. John McLeod (Bean Ian Bhan Shoar), Mrs. Margaret McLeod, (Mereadh Ruadh), Christy McLean, Margaret McLean, Rose Valley, Mrs. Murdoch McKenzie (Bean Mureacheadh), Rose Valley; Mrs. Donald McInnis (Bean Dh'onal Og), and I think I might with becoming modesty include among these faithful ones, who though dead yet speak to us by the example of their pure lives, as well as their unswerving devotion to the cause of pure and undefiled religion, my own dear mother, (Catherine Nighean S'heoras). In those early days of fifty years ago the people in this parish lived like one large and happy family, in sweet concord and harmony; each neighbor striving to help the other, bearing one another's burdens. Brotherly love and good will ruled supreme. They were always ready to forgive and forget each other's foibles and shortcomings. When one member suffered all the members suffered.

Contrasting the scanty privileges and opportunities enjoyed by our noble sires and grandfathers with the glorious ones we now enjoy, we may well blush with shame that we do not improve them as we ought. To think for a moment of the hardships encountered by these hardy pioneers in making a com-

fortable livelihood for their families would to-day make the heart of the bravest of us quail. So much so that if the Herculean task of clearing the forest were left to the present generation of young men, instead of our beautiful Island home being the gem of the Gulf, the beautiful garden of the Dominion, as it certainly now is, it would forever remain covered with its primeval forest, the fit abode of wild animals.

Fifty years ago when this large parish was all closely settled, there was only one schoolhouse, where there are ten to-day. Just think of the boys and girls of those days travelling from the west end of Rose Valley, East and West Line Roads, Junction Road and Hartaville to Springton school, many of them barefooted in summer and but lightly clad in winter; then you will better appreciate your own opportunities and admire the pluck of the young boys and girls of those early days. When you consider the scarcity of money to purchase school-books, you will not be surprised to hear that as many as half a dozen of boys and girls would be reading out of the same class book and studying out of the same old ear-clipped grammar and perhaps as many more ciphering on the same old slate, which was perhaps borrowed from an older boy who could not attend school. With all such disadvantages and drawbacks many of those noble and true-hearted boys and girls kept abreast of the times and succeeded in elbowing their way to respectable positions at home and abroad.

Since the days I am speaking of, arts and science have made such rapid progress that newspapers and books treating on almost every imaginable subject are now within the reach of everybody. New inventions and discoveries have in a great measure revolutionized every branch of industry as well as fields of knowledge and research. By the new mechanical contrivances manual labor is greatly minimized. Farming is now classed as among the most genteel and lucrative avocations of life. The sickle and the scythe are superseded by the self-binder; the flail by the threshing machine. By the application of steam and electricity distance is to a great extent annihilated, by which means the nations of the earth are