

fellowship, the breaking of bread and in prayers that same day, and so continued to do so as the years rolled by, amid the scoffs of the greater part of their neighbors who were Presbyterians."

"But they were not the only persons who came to this country that had been baptized in Scotland. In 1817, John McNabb settled on McLellan's Mountain, East River, about forty miles from River John, and in 1820 John Wilson with a large family settled in River John. These were the first permanent additions to the small church. From the year 1817 to 1825 the following persons settled at or near River John on Pictou, namely: Archibald McArthur, James Sillars, Edward Hamilton, Neill Henry and Thomas Benton. These had all been baptized in Scotland and all, as well as the distances would permit, joined in forwarding the cause here."

"James Murray, who had always led in the worship, was, in 1824, elected to the eldership, all the members concurring, and from this time the church began to gather strength. In the years 1824 and 1825, Wm McKay, Wm. Taylor and wife and John Gould were baptized, and immigrants from Scotland and the rising generation began to take their places in the church."

"In September, 1824, at the request of a few persons in Wallace, Cumberland County, James Murray, accompanied by some of the brethren went to that place and baptized Andrew McKim, who, with a few others, formerly baptized, were formed into a church which grew to fifteen members, continued twelve years and then lost its identity. The death of Andrew McKim and the scattered situation of its members is said to have been the cause."

"In August, 1829, a small church was formed at the residence of John McNabb, McLellan's Mountain, which increased to ten members and existed about eight or nine years, but after the death of John McNabb they ceased to meet. However there still remain in that locality a few persons who are living in the faith, among whom we might mention James MacDonald and family. In the years 1833, James Sillars removed from West River valley to River John, was made a deacon in the following year and in 1840 elected to the eldership; John Milne who had been an Elder in Scotland and continued his eldership on coming to River John in 1833, having moved to the United States."

"From the year 1815 to 1858, there is a record of eighty persons having been baptized and of twenty-seven identifying themselves with the church who had been baptized before they came here."

"Passing over a period of forty-two years we come to the present. Now there are in the settlement of River John twenty-one members, six of whom are women of eighty years of age and over. Our meetings for worship ceased about three years ago. Our latest elder was Malcolm Sillars who died in 1890, since which time we have had no Elder."

Such is the interesting though sad history of the church at River John as given by Bro. McNabb. There is also a record of Bro. John Doyle, one of our early home missionaries, having visited River John and found this little church worshipping God according to Scriptural precedent. He reports that they then numbered about twenty, and that James Murray was Elder.

WEST GORE.

We are indebted to the kindness of Bro. John McDougall for the following record from West Gore. Bro. and Sister MacDougall's respective mothers who still live and were among the first

converts in Hants County were baptized in 1837. Their memory of the Reformation is vivid and abounds with incidents of interest a few of which we give.

The Reformation was started between 1832 and 1835 by John MacDonald while he was a member of the Baptist church. Being an earnest student of the scriptures, and a sincere seeker after the truth, he became dissatisfied with the teachings of the Baptist church, severed his connection with it, and with twenty six of its best members formed a separate body, taking the Bible only for their rule of faith and practice. About this time one of our Evangelists, Elder Benjamin Howard, came to the province, and two of the prominent sisters who had left the Baptist with Elder MacDonald, hearing of him and his doctrine, sent him an invitation to come to Rawdon and hold a meeting, which he accepted and held a meeting during the winter of 1837 in the course of which twenty members were added. These forty six members continued to meet from house to house in West Gore, Rawdon and Newport, some of them walking from three to nine miles to meet on Sunday morning, often through paths in the forest, as roads had not then been opened up in many parts of the county. About this time Elder MacDonald preached his first sermon as a regular minister of the church and was succeeded shortly after by Elder Michael Wallace. A church building was erected in West Gore in 1856, a few years later another was built at Newport, and later on one at Rawdon. In 1864 Bro. John B. Wallace was appointed Elder and held office until 1876 when Bros. John T. Wallace and John McDougall were appointed, to whom was added Bro Joshua Brison in 1886. These last three named continue to hold office at the present time.

Bros. John Doyle and Benj. Howard organized the churches at Rawdon, Newport and Falmouth. Churches also existed at this time in Cornwallis and Billtown.

The total membership of the churches in Nova Scotia in 1840 was estimated to be about two hundred.

HALIFAX.

The history of the church at Halifax is a history of vicissitudes. When Elder Benjamin Howard came to the province in 1837 he found a church there comprising about thirty members. How and by who organized we have no means of knowing. Sometime about the years 1800 to 1862 Dr. Knox began to preach in Halifax and greatly strengthened the church. A worthy few of the members of that time have weathered all the storms since, and still remain faithful to the cause. Since the dedication of the present church building in 1893, there have been added eighty seven members, but from death and emigration the present membership is only about fifty. The number of members added since 1893 shows that here is a good field for mission labor.

LE TETE.

Owing to the loss of the old church book the date of the original organization of this church could not be ascertained, but it is known that Elder George Garrity was the first preacher and no doubt organized the church.

According to the present church book there appears to have been re-organized March 26th. in 1868 with a membership of sixty four and Bros. George Campbell and Alexander Greenshaw as Elders. Sometimes afterward a period of depression intervened, but the interest was again revived by Bro. Blenus and still continues.

We have also a record that a congregation gathered at Sussex, (possibly Penobsquis) numbering fourteen who embraced the faith by Bro. John Doyle in or about 1840, but we have no information as to whether it was ever organized into a church. We might also note that the first annual meeting of the Disciples of Christ was held at Milton in 1855. There were six delegates present.

The society has also at its command a number of data and historical facts which for fear of wearying the readers we omit, but which may be compiled into another article for THE CHRISTIAN at some future date.

There is much food for serious reflection in the history of our churches in the provinces when we learn of the number of churches (many of which have been omitted from this article) that have been organized, struggled along for a few years and

finally faded away. While the interest in home missions was alive the cause progressed encouragingly but when the interest flagged, decadence began at once.

During the year 1840 there were two home missionaries supported in the field, Elders Garrity and Howard, assisted at times by Bros. Doyle, Smith and Cook, and that when the whole membership in the Province could not have numbered many more than two hundred. Now with a membership of upwards of two thousand one missionary cannot be supported. Comment is unnecessary, the fact is a sermon in itself.

GRAND MANAN.

From 1837 to 1840, Elder Cook preached on Grand Manan and organized a church which in 1840 numbered from eighty to ninety members.

News of the Churches.

ST. JOHN, N. B.

COBURG STREET.

W. H. Harding, of Lord's Cove, was present at the Young People's meeting, Monday evening, June 11th.

Sister Leary, of Sandy Cove, N. S., is attending the commercial college of S. Kerr & Son, and we are glad to have her at our meetings.

Dr. R. Bentley Ray, minister of this church, will spend the month of July in Boston, attending the Summer School of Divinity at Harvard, after which he will return to St. John.

MAIN STREET.

No notice of the work of this mission has appeared for sometime, but this was not because of lack of matters to report.

The meeting held by Bro. Romig was a great help to the congregation. There were twenty who came forward during the meetings, fifteen of whom have taken membership with us. This is not as large an increase as we hoped, but if they all prove true, devoted and wholehearted the meeting will have borne good fruit. But the additions were by no means the only good resulting. Several lukewarm members have become earnest and zealous and are now actively engaged in the work of the Lord. Numbers of people who had little or no idea of the plea we make were enlightened and have been made to think, and we trust that the seed sown may still bear more fruit.

Work is once more going on in connection with the new building. Owing to the indifference or lack of liberality of the members of the Maritime churches of Christ, this mission point was obliged to stop work in the building for two or three months. Another start has been made, but the financial assistance of the brethren and sisters is urgently needed and needed now. Surely you do not wish to discourage and dishearten this noble band in their earnest struggle. Help this work now, brethren, and it will not be long before they will be able to be self supporting and assisting other points.

The S. S. is in better condition than for several months new teachers and new scholars testify to this.

Dr. Ray has taught a class in the S. S. on several Lord's days and has also united at most of the Wednesday prayer meetings. On Sunday 17th. he preached at the evening service.

On Saturday afternoon, June 25, Miss Alice Purvis and Miss Lou. Whelpley took their S. S. classes for a picnic to the Bay Shore. The children had a very enjoyable afternoon and fully appreciated the outing.

LETETE, N. B.

One confession and baptism, and one wanderer returned to the fold by confession and was gladly welcomed.

WM. MURRAY.

KEMPT, N. S.

There were eight precious souls buried with Christ in baptism on the 17th in the presence of a large assembly. The day was beautiful and the water calm. We shall not forget the events of the day, as our minds and hearts were so deeply impressed. We continue the meeting another week.

H. E. COOKE.