

PRESBYTERIANISM IN BRITISH NORTH AMERICA

The Huguenots were the first Presbyterians that entered Canada, called *La Nouvelle France*. There remain to-day very few traces of existence. The Presbyterianism that now exists is of Irish and Scotch origin. It entered British America from different directions, at divers times, at varied circumstances. There were, however, four chief centres whence, like springs in our forests primeval, the Presbyterian streams that are now the eve of uniting into one great river, to gladden and bless large portions of our Dominion.

JAMES MCGREGOR.

1. It lacks yet eleven years of being one century since the Rev. Mr. Smith, Cock, and Graham, ministers of the Burgher Synod, organized Truro, the first Presbytery of British North America. That very year, 1794, the Rev. James McGregor, sent out by the Anti-Burgher Synod, arrived in Halifax, sat, it would seem, with the new Presbytery, and pushed on to destination, Pictou, then consisting of one or two houses. After eight years of hard work, Mr. McGregor was joined by two ministers of his own communion, who, along with him, constituted in Robert Marshall's barn, in 1794, Associate Presbytery of Nova Scotia. For twenty-three years the two Presbyteries stood apart, but at length in 1817 they met, on common ground, after much consultation and prayer, formed a union (the first colonial union of which there is any record) of all the Presbyterians of Nova Scotia, save the congregation. The divisions of old Scotland however, broke again the union of New Scotland, for we find in 1844 again three Presbyterian churches in Nova Scotia. By the union of the Free Church of Nova Scotia and the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia in 1860, these three became two. These two, now on the eve of union, constitute all the Presbyterians of Nova Scotia, save four ministers of the Reformed Presbyterian Church.

GEORGE HENRY.

2. Four years before the Burgher brethren, David Smith and David Cock, landed in Halifax, and six years after the taking of Quebec, the Rev. George Henry, military chaplain at the time of the Conquest, organized in 1765, a Presbyterian congregation in the city of Quebec.

"That fortress cliff that keeps of Canada the key."

Having resigned his chaplaincy, he continued for 28 years to minister to the little congregation of Presbyterians that met for worship on the shore of Cape Diamond, and under the shadow of the old Cathedral church of Cap Diamant—erected last year into a Basilica. His successor, the Rev. Mr. Spence, "entered on his official duties with all the formalities that circumstances would permit," for as yet there was no Presbytery in the land.

JOHN BETHUNE.

3. Seven years before Mr. Henry's death (1793) there arrived in Canada the Rev. JOHN BETHUNE, a native of the Island of Sky. Soon after his ordination he had been appointed to the charge of a congregation of Scotch Highlanders in South Carolina. During the American War he was appointed