

T H E P R I N C E E D W A R D I S L A N D M A G A Z I N E

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Memories of Old St. James'.

THE mention in a former number of THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND MAGAZINE of St. James' Presbyterian Church, familiarly called the "Old Kirk," stirred in me so many recollections and reminiscences that I feel tempted to enlarge a little on some of the topics alluded to, and indeed to go ten years further back. The actual building of the church was of course before my day, but I so often heard my father tell of it, and the attendant circumstances, that in hearsay I lived through the interest and excitement of the event.

What a fine set of Scotchmen there were in the quaint little town then; how ardently and energetically they worked together to raise the Church of their fathers in that far distant colony, and what excitement there was when the work completed, the first minister sent out by the Church of Scotland actually arrived. I think he landed on a Saturday, and in the evening many of the leading Scotchmen of the place met together to welcome him, and shrewdly forecast the spiritual chances of the morrow. Alas! the impression they received was anything but favorable. A tall, dark man, ungainly in appearance, shy and awkward in manner, he had little to say, and was altogether unprepossessing. My father came home quite crestfallen, and would only say that the service in the morning would be Gaelic, and English at three o'clock in the afternoon.

Next morning accordingly there was a great gathering of