

rage, and can answer for themselves. Possibly they might have been bad boys, at the time, as represented in the report; yet, it is somewhat difficult to see how they could alone have carried their point in a matter of less importance than the amalgamation of the two bodies in question. But we are all wrong here, according to the above authority; and it is well that a "healer" of the breaches complained of has come amongst us. It seems hard to say which has gone farthest astray here, such as did not or those who did, so hastily, enter into the above alliance. If, however, I find myself on this score set down as the "leader" of the Kirk party in Cape Breton, I at once accept the charge, as an honor to which I had not aspired, and which perhaps I do not merit, in whatever sense of the term it may have been applied.

Other things in the report, and out of it, I pass over.

I cannot, however, but animadvert, at least, by way of explanation, on the attack made in the same report, on our ministers; whose conduct here, from first to last, will be best vindicated by pointing briefly to the history of this mission.

The Rev. Dr. McGregor, of Pictou, was the first Presbyterian minister who visited this Island—above fifty years ago—but in Secession interest.

A few years after, our first Gaelic minister, the Rev. Donald Fraser, came out to Pictou, and the Rev. John McLennan to P. E. Island; both of whom hastened to the rescue of our people here, at the most critical period of their settlement; when the magistrates had to perform the ceremony of marriage for parties, and the Priests to celebrate the rite of baptism to Protestants. These noble heralds of the Cross, with once the Rev. Kenneth J. McKenzie, continued their excursions down here, under every disadvantage of conveyance and accommodation, and were the original pioneers of the Cape Breton Mission.

About this time, the Rev. Norman McLeod settled at St. Ann's here; who, notwithstanding his nondescript creed, and his morbid sentimentality, yet, by the force of his natural abilities, and the unmistakable evidences of his personal piety, exercised no inconsiderable influence and control there and over the Island, during about thirty years.

In the meantime, of the Church landed here successively, the Rev. Donald McDougald of P. E. Island, the Rev. Angus McLean of Canada, the Rev. Dougald McKichan of Pictou; all of whom passed some time in the Island, and travelled, and labored, and helped to keep the people's heads above water till the arrival of our first stationed Missionary, the Rev. Alexander Farquharson. He was by nature a Missionary—quiet, unassuming, very humble, and much given to prayer. On his travels, no ac-

commodation came wrong to him; he sat on horse-back, looking now and then at his Bible; when, upon coming to a halt, would preach a full and savoury discourse with a most melodious voice; after which was as genial as any man. Other zealous men followed, and worked hard in summer heat and winter's cold, under every circumstance of difficulty and privation incident to such a new country. And now was the Golden Age of the mission; but which was not destined to last long, and which seemed to have gradually declined, under the repeated denominational changes to which the people have been subjected in these times.

Meanwhile came an era of Disunion from parties in Scotland, concerned in the troubles of this period. One of these Ministers of the seceding party, at the time finally settled on the opposite side of the Island, whose activity will leave behind him an immense congregation, as a monument of his genius, and the fruit of his great efforts and continued exertions in their behalf.

Of the able men sent out by the National Church on the occasion, one younger and more adventurous than the rest, as it were, appeared—the Rev. Mr. Stevenson—felt before returning home, nothing would satisfy him short of seeing this wild and remote Island. Led by the Rev. John McLennan, both unexpectedly made their appearance on this side of the Strait of Canso, where they received the hearty welcome of the settlers. Here and over most of that end of the Island, they travelled and preached, holding their meetings on Sabbath at separate stations, and on week days both together. Mr. McLennan had been known here long ago, and still retained the confidence and respect of the people; yet these Highlanders seemed to be particularly taken with his frank manners and genial disposition of a stranger in private conversation; and while the old among them did not understand his English sermon, they read in his face and inferred from the tone of his voice. After two weeks labors and intercourse with their friends, they returned, sorry that they could promise them no speedy supply of preaching. Their short visit, however, proved most opportune at the time. Although the Parent Church has not been able to send them a Missionary till last fall, the Congregations with three Churches in the quarter have all along, now for about twenty years, patiently waited for one.

Then succeeded a sort of Middle Age here as regarded the adherents of the Kirk on the island, during which some of them attended no Church; whilst others did while they could, and at the same time, contribute to the support of the local ministers, on the principle they said, of "any harbor, on a storm."

In the meantime, strong representations of their forlorn condition were made by the