

bitterness and corrected many of the erroneous impressions, but we regret to say has not brought our brethren back to us. But let us be thankful for the measure of good it has effected. Neither at home nor in the Colonies, does any one, now with the exception perhaps of some isolated bigot think of branding the Church of Scotland with the injurious and reckless imputations which in those days were so freely cast against her. Here indeed oblivion has so far buried them that the generation which separated from the church has expressed a strong desire—that a Union knitting the three Presbyterian bodies should be effected.—We rejoice in the spirit which dictated the offer, as it proves that men have cast away their old opinions and buried we trust for ever the opprobrious and most unjust cry to which we have already alluded. That we have not accepted the offer arises neither from want of esteem, nor want of confidence, or indifference to the advantages of union, but because there are certain principles which we feel bind us to the Church of our Fathers and which we cannot conscientiously push aside. Our feelings, perhaps even our interests might incline us to make common cause with our brethren, but if higher considerations restrain us, these are surely entitled to respect. But we are wandering from or rather anticipating our subject.

Thirteen years ago, there were only three watchmen upon our towers. Our ecclesiastical organization was in abeyance. We had neither a Synod nor a Presbytery. Our hearts may have almost failed us as we looked at the spiritual destitution around us, but the faith and resolution of our people never wavered. Congregations had been left without a pastor, yet they clung to their Church through long and weary years—getting occasional ministrations how and when they could. A deputation from the Mother Church visited them, saw the extent of the destitution, and with deepest sympathy witnessed the earnest longing of a firm and faithful people for the time when a minister's voice might be regularly heard among them. The men of this deputation were Masters in Israel, men of wisdom and experience, whose words were weighty and eloquent, and who might well be classed among the excellent ones of the earth. Their presence and sympathy refreshed the minds

and hopes of our people like a shower in the desert, or an abundant dew in the season of drought. In the Presbytery of Halifax there were but two labourers, both faithful and earnest in duty, and who are still spared to us, and we trust that their bow may long abide in strength. But in the Presbytery of Pictou there was but one—while eight or ten great congregations looked up to him as their only spiritual adviser and instructor. Thanks be to God his frame was strong, and his heart willing and resolute. The weary journeyings did not dishearten him, the immense labour did not overwhelm either body or spirit. In the full vigor of life he gave his whole heart and energies, his time his talents, his prospects, to the spiritual welfare of the people of the county of Pictou. He felt equal to much and he performed much. Some thirteen years ago another laborer arrived upon the field, and devoted himself with vigor and great success to the missionary work. The deputation made our position and wants extensively known at home, and year by year brought one servant of the sanctuary after another. No effort was spared by the Church at home. The Presbytery of Halifax enjoyed in succession the labors of the Rev. Messrs. Nicol, Sprott, Wilson, Stewart, Boyd and Jardine, all men, excellent and devoted, and whose labours have not been without abundant fruit. The Presbytery of Prince Edward Island has experienced at least equal attention. The Rev. Messrs. Macbean, McNair, Snodgrass, Duncan, Lochead and McLaren, were all sent out under the auspices of the Col. Committee to that important field of labor. Only one of these is now upon this station—doing his work well and successfully. The first—an eloquent and impassioned preacher—ill health compelled to remove to a milder climate. The second—one of the most amiable of men, earnest and sincere, possessing the enviable gift of winning hearts—has, alas! lost his way; but, notwithstanding his sad doctrinal errors, has many a warm friend on this side of the Atlantic. The third—solid and massive, weighty in word and thought—now worthily occupies a commanding position in a sister colony. The fourth labors, as we have said, ably and successfully as his successor. The fifth—an earnest and resolute man—might have been more successful, had he been more pliant, and studied more carefully