

REMINISCENCES.

THE history of our Maritime Presbyterianism is yet largely unwritten. The heroic men, now nearly all vanished, whose busy and self-sacrificing lives were devoted to the planting and watering of our young church, were so much occupied in their work that they did not even think of the history they were making. They had no time to gather and record it. Enough for them to have unconsciously hewn out the materials. When some later hand, providentially raised up for the work, shall have gathered those materials and built them into a shapely and solid structure, many a humble name shall have placed around it in the sight of men, the halo of glory which already adorns it in the sight of the Master.

Forty years is not a long period in the history of a church ; yet the last forty years have wrought wonderful changes in the condition of our Maritime Presbyterianism. At that time three small bodies, vigorous and hopeful it is true, but sometimes jealous and fretful and ill-tempered towards one another, were each for itself, grappling with difficulties, which are felt to-day to be all but too great for the combined energies of the united three. Those whose recollections reach back so far, will not have forgotten our difficulties in those days of division and strife. It is neither pleasant nor profitable to recall the hostile feelings engendered or the bitter words spoken when Presbyterian opened fire upon Presbyterian, and brethren cherishing the same faith hurled maledictions at one another. Far more agreeable it is to retrace the means by which the brethren were drawn into closer fellowship, and the breaches and scars of our ecclesiastical system were healthfully and happily healed.

Of the three bodies forming the constituent elements of our now united church, the first in the field was the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia. At the time of which we write, this branch of the church had been in the field for more than half a century, and the first heroic band of missionaries had nearly all passed away. McGregor and McCulloch and Waddell, and Ross and Mitchell, and Robson, had finished their labours ; and not a few of their younger colleagues, such as Kerr and Walker, and Roy and Sprott, and Crowe and Trotter and McKinlay, were far advanced in life. A large number of the third generation, such as the younger Rosses, McCulloch, Waddell, McGregor, Campbell and.