

CENTENARY CELEBRATION AT NEW GLASGOW.

On the 17th of September, 1786, Rev. James McGregor, the first minister to Pictou, whose congregation was the county and region beyond, organized his first session, the session of Pictou. And on the 17th Sept., 1886, the centenary of that event was celebrated at James Church, New Glasgow, the services beginning at 1.30 p. m., and, with an intermission of an hour and a half for tea, continuing until 1 p. m.

G. W. Underwood, Esq., presided. Papers were read during the afternoon by Rev. E. A. McCurdy, on "The Early Settlement of Pictou, and the position of Civil, Social, and Ecclesiastical Affairs in the Province of Nova Scotia One Hundred years ago"; by Dr. McCulloch, on "The Planting of Presbyterianism in Pictou, and its progress prior to the union of 1817"; by James W. Carmichael, Esq., on "The Political Influence of Pictou Presbyterianism"; and by Rev. E. Ross, on "The History of Presbyterianism in Pictou from 1817 to the Union of 1875. In the evening, there were papers by D. C. Fraser, Esq., on the "History of the Congregation of James Church under its first two pastors"; by J. D. McGregor, Esq., on the "Commercial History of New Glasgow, and some reminiscences of its people"; with an address by J. S. McLean, Esq., on "Presbyterianism and Progress"; and by Rev. J. D. McGillivray on "The duty that lies before us." The services were varied at intervals by devotional exercises. The music was of a high order, and beautifully rendered by a well trained choir of fine voices. In the lecture hall well laden tables were spread, and during the intermission the invited guests were entertained to tea. The services throughout were interesting, some of the papers being of exceptional excellence.

The congregations of East and West Rivers, and the Harbor, can date their separate existence, as independent congregations, back to the division of the congregation of Pictou in 1795. Beyond that time, the session and congregation of Pictou, embracing the whole county, which was Dr. MacGregor's first charge, and of which these divisions are the joint heirs, reaches back to 1786; so that there are different congregations, which, as repre-

sentatives of these divisions, can, with equal right, date their origin from a century ago.

We trust that all these centenarians will bring forth fruit in old age and be fat and flourishing, an example in all the Christian virtues to their younger brethren.

THE NEW HEBRIDES.

It is evident that unless a very decided stand is taken by the British Government, the French have gone to the New Hebrides with the intention of remaining. The reason given by them for sending troops there, was that it was necessary for the protection of French interests, said interests being a few traders. But the absurdity of such a claim is shewn in the fact that in the two places which their troops occupy there is not the slightest danger of disturbance, and in one of them there are no such interests to protect. The two places thus occupied are Havannah Harbor, in the Island of Efate, where Mr. McDonald is settled, on the same island on which our own missionary, Rev. J. W. McKenzie, labors. The other place occupied is Port Sandwich, in Mallicola, one of the largest islands of the group.

The following is an extract from a letter published in the *Morning Herald* of Sydney, Australia, and written by a correspondent in Noumea, New Caledonia, one of the Loyalty Islands, lying some two hundred miles from the New Hebrides, and belonging to the French. He says regarding the two places in which the soldiers are located :

First, Havannah Harbor, in the island of Efate, is a splendid port, perfectly sheltered. This *savage* place, which calls for the presence of French troops to protect French subjects, has been settled on, to my knowledge, for the last 14 years at least, every one living in tranquility, as far as the natives were concerned, and both sheep and cattle belonging to the settlers were unmolested all over the island.

This used to be the great port of call for all the Fiji and Queensland labor vessels going to and returning from the group.

Passing from Havannah Harbor, the next port in "occupation" is Port Sandwich, on the east coast of the island of Mallicola.

Anchorage is to be had anywhere. The