

this place the memory of the past and recall with them the former days.

But there are other reasons which make this meeting a most interesting one—*Fifty years ago this very week* there was an Association in Chester, Father Thomas Ainsley then preached in this house the Introductory Sermon from the very words from which I have attempted to address you. I hold in my hands the Minutes of that Association comprising then the three province of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. Few delegates were here, and few ordained ministers, but the Mannings were here, Theodore Harding, The Dimocks, the Crandall's and others, mighty men of God. Of the members of that Association nearly all have passed away except William Chipman and George Dimock and it may be one or two more. The Fathers where are they? and the prophets do they live for ever? But blessed be God their works do follow them.

We keep Jubilee to day, a few weeks ago we had some delightful meetings at Wolfville. To day we hold the fiftieth Anniversary of both our Foreign and Home Missionary operations as will appear by the following resolutions from the Minutes of the Association held at Chester, in June, 1814.

9. A contribution was made for the poor heathen to be sent to the Treasurer of the Auxiliary Bible Society, Halifax, and forwarded by that Society. Amount received £8 13s.

11. A request was also made by the Church in Chester, that some of our ministering brethren might be sent to visit the inhabitants on the shore, to the eastward of Chester, to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them, being destitute of that invaluable blessing.

*Voted*,—That Brethren Joseph Crandall and Samuel Bancroft visit said inhabitants, and that each of them receive five shillings per day during three months, to be paid out of the surplus of the collection for printing the Minutes of the Association, and should that not be sufficient, the members of this Association stand pledged to make it up and most earnestly pray the Lord of the harvest may go with them and make them useful.

There is no previous record of any action on behalf of either Foreign or Home Missions. So this may reasonably be considered as the first step in both branches of christian effort.