

cal reflections. In the first place,—*Be thankful for and improve your privileges.* How much temporal goodness do you enjoy. I need not attempt to describe to you the circumstances of the country at that time, for there are some here, who, from their experience on this point, might be my instructors.—They can tell of the toil of clearing the forest, or of passing from one settlement to another on foot or on snowshoes, with only a blaze to direct their way. How much more outward comfort do you as a congregation enjoy than your fathers. They often worshipped in the open air—sometimes exposed to inclement weather.—The Sacrament was dispensed under the canopy of heaven. There were only the two small log houses for churches in this county—one at Loch Broom, and the other at the East River, both without fire, so that they could not be used in winter, and for a time without pulpits. There were no roads. When the churches had been erected, paths had to be cut to them through the woods, and these only sufficient to guide the worshipper to them. There were no carriages, and all came to meeting either on foot or in a boat. In contrast with this, consider the comfort with which you now assemble summer and winter—the roads along which you travel in your carriages, and churches so numerous, that you can hear the gospel every sabbath without toil.

But how much greater your religious privileges. There was then only one minister of the gospel in the whole county, or within some distance from it, so that preaching could be heard only occasionally, without great labour. There were but few books—the Bible was dear.* There was not a regular school in the county of Pictou. Now ministers occupy every section of the county; books are plentiful,—the Bible is cheap,—within reach of the poorest, and the pennies of a child can procure this inestimable treasure.—Truly it becomes us to raise our hearts in gratitude to the giver of all good for his abundant goodness. But let us also remember that to whom much is given, of them much shall be required.

* We have been informed of instances even some time after, in which the common pocket Bible was sold at twenty-five shillings.

Secondly,—*Follow the faith and Christian example of those who have gone before you.* Dr. McGregor remarks, that there were instances of apostacy, among those who sat down at the first communion in Pictou, but they were few. And you can testify how many of them adorned the gospel, living and dying. You know what manner of conversation most of that generation had. You have had the example of their faith and the benefit of their prayers. You have heard of their love for the gospel; of women travelling from the West River or Rogers Hill to the East River on foot, with infants in their arms, and the aged setting forth on the Saturday, that they might hear the words of eternal life. Truly "the word of the Lord was precious in those days." But this noble ancestry, not indeed a titled lineage, but higher still, this christian descent is another added to the many calls we have, to lives of faith and devotedness to God. It is an additional privilege, for which we have to account; and O that we as a generation may have grace so to act our part, as that when we shall have passed away—when at some future period, perhaps when some new church is completed, and the attention of the generation then existing is called to your character, it may be said in reference to you as we now say in reference to our fathers, "Be not slothful, but followers of them, who through faith and patience now inherit the promises."

Thirdly—*Endeavour to transmit the same truths unimpaired to posterity.*—

A precious legacy has been committed to you by your fathers, and it was with the design, that you should transmit it to the race that is to come. "He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children, that the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born, who should arise and declare them to their children, that they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments." We have indeed maintained the perpetuity of God's word—but it is not perpetual in every place. God often punishes particular portions of professors, by withdrawing privileges which they failed to improve.—