

parations were effected. For more than 30 years the services of one minister were enjoyed and for 50 years, with surrounding localities, the same servant of God, broke to them the Bread of Life, a very rare occurrence in any of our congregations.

On the death of Dr. McCulloch, in the year 1844 Dr. Keir was, called to fill the chair of Systematic Theology in the Seminary of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia. This position he held with honour until the year 1858. On the 22nd Sept. of that year while attending the classes at Truro he took ill and died. In presiding over the training of the ministry of the church he had not laboured in vain. Young men in studying ever found in him a sincere friend and he was always ready to assist them in their work. Some of the Presbyterian ministers now labouring in the Maritime Provinces received their theological training under him and were thus prepared to enter upon their life work.

In the history of our church three ministers reached a fifty years ministry. The Jubilee services of the Rev. John Brown were held at Londonderry in 1845 the Rev. Dr. Keir at Princetown in 1858 and the Rev. John Sprott in Musquodoboit in 1859. On the 20th July 1858, some 3000 persons assembled to do honour to Dr. Keir on the occasion of his jubilee. He was also presented with a purse containing \$548. Shortly after this event he passed away to his rest and reward in the 70th year of his age and received that happy plaudic, "Well done good and faithful servant enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

He lived to see many changes effected on the Island and wrought well in the Master's service. In not a few localities he was the first to sow the seeds of Divine Truth and was afterwards privileged to see some of these localities spring into congregations. He was untiring in his efforts to advance the Redeemer's kingdom, taking a deep interest in the Foreign Mission enterprise and in every scheme that tended to the interests of Christ's cause.

After Dr Keir's death supply was given by the Presbytery and on the 22nd June 1869 a call was moderated in which came out in favour of Mr. William Keir son of the former minister. Mr. Keir, principally on account of physical debility, declined accepting it, and afterward entered the medical profession. Though the hopes of the people were disappointed, yet they did not give way to despondency.

In the following year another attempt was made which proved successful. Rev. Robert Laird was ordained, and inducted there, on the 12th June 1860 and continued to labour until the 12th Oct. 1879 when his demission took effect. For 19 years Mr. Laird wrought, attending diligently and faithfully to his duties. He is now the minister of Little Harbor and Fisher's Grant in the Presbytery of Pictou.

On the 30th June 1880 Rev. George McMillan, M. A. was ordained and still continues pastor of the congregation.

From this short sketch it will be seen that but three ministers have been ordained over the Princetown congregation since its organization in 1800. It has not been subjected to long vacancies nor frequent changes which often retard growth. Its communion roll is the largest of any congregation in the Island Presbytery with an attendance of 350 at the weekly prayer meetings which is not exceeded by any congregation in the Maritime Provinces.

In contributing to the schemes of the church it is the banner congregation in the Presbytery, raising last \$503. Of this sum more than half was contributed to Foreign Mission Fund and not a single blank is found in the statistical return. If growth in liberality be an evidence of spiritual life in a congregation then Princetown affords that evidence. During Mr. Laird's pastorate in 1870, \$14 per family was raised for all purposes and in the past five years there has been a marked improvement in the rate of contribution to the general schemes of the church. Conscientious, regular, and voluntary giving is what is required in every congregation and it is pleasing to note how the stream of liberality has of late risen. May it still continue to rise and flow on deeper and wider in all our congregations.

In a lecture delivered in Glasgow the Duke of Argyll said:—"In the last year of his life Mr. Darwin did me the honor of calling upon me in London, and I had a long and interesting conversation with that distinguished observer of nature. In the course of conversation I said it was impossible to look at the wonderful processes of nature which he had observed without seeing that they were the effect and expression of mind. I shall never forget Mr. Darwin's answer. He looked at me hard and said, 'Well, it often comes over me with overpowering force but at other times (and he shook his head) it seems to go away.'"