

done nobly in this matter. St. John, N. B., has contributed its quota. P. E. Island, we believe, is up to the mark. Pictou-town, proportionally, is perhaps at the head of the list. Men of Pictou County, will you not bestir yourselves, and exemplify your wonted loyalty to the counsels of your Church courts?



A MEMORIAL OF 25 YEARS MINISTRATIONS IN PICTOU, N. S.,

BEING THE SERMON PREACHED ON
JANUARY 11TH, 1874, FROM ACTS
XX, 20, 21.

"I kept back nothing that was profitable, but have showed you and have taught you, publicly and from house to house, testifying repentance towards God, and faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ."

BY REV. A. W. HERDMAN, A. M.,

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Session of St. Andrew's Church*

The context informs you of the circumstances in which these words were spoken. The Apostle Paul had been performing one of his missionary tours through Asia Minor, and he came to Miletus, a seaport town on the Ægean Sea. And not being able in person to visit Ephesus, (about 30 miles distant), he sent and called the Elders of that Church to come to him at Miletus, and there he addressed them, in the words you read from v. 18th, in which he details his missionary experience since he came into Asia Minor, and specifies the objects of his ministry among them. For about three years had this great Apostle and Missionary laboured among the Ephesians. He had found a few disciples there, and had left them a Church,—found them ignorant and acquainted only with John's Baptism, and left them a spiritually-minded and intelligent christian congregation, as you may judge by the Epistle to the Ephesians. This had not been done without much labour and self-denial on his part, teaching as well as preaching, sowing his seed weeping, while he warned them of their temptations and dangers, and above all, showing in himself an example of the truths he inculcated, and commending his hearers in prayer to God. That

Paul had been heartily engaged in his ministerial work, we have no reason to doubt. This address fully shows it. Throughout, it breathes an excellent spirit, and he can appeal to his audience that he is free from the blood of all men because he has not "shunned to declare unto them all the counsel of God." This is solemn; it shows that a minister has to answer to God for his charge, and for his manner of conducting it; and that faithfulness to the souls of his people and fidelity to the great Master are the principal requisites of the Christian minister. Do any deny this? then let them ponder the commendation of the Divine Head of the Church on the great day of account: "Well done good and faithful servant, faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many," and ponder the promise and meditate upon this address of Paul's, and they will be satisfied that fidelity and affection to souls are the grand essentials of the Christian ministry. And have we any reason to conclude that that ministry is altered in its prime requisites since? On the contrary, it remains that repentance towards God, and faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ, be testified now as then; and that souls be still watched for by those that must give an account. In short, the ministry is a spiritual embassy, seeking the good of souls through a preached and practiced Gospel now as then. It is the same message that we have to proclaim. Eighteen hundred years have made no difference in that truth which is the same forever. It is similar solicitude for the salvation of our hearers we have to evince. As a nurse instructs her children, so have we, and like caution against evil to administer. "Therefore watch, and remember that for the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears." Also, Paul's singular absence of all worldly greed is for us admirable. "I have coveted no man's silver or gold or apparel," and his concluding speech is very affecting: "I have showed you all things how that in labouring you ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus how he said, it is more blessed to give than to receive." Thus was he their Benefactor, and not their Debtor. Alas! that we should have it to record that the Church of