

little was known at that time here of the sectarian distinctions which were then beginning to obtain in Scotland. Rev. Mr. McGregor, the first Minister of Pictou, belonged to the Body then known there as *Seceders*; but being a good man and earnest preacher, no exception was taken to him on that account. Indeed, the distinction was scarcely intelligible to them. The only Minister of the Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia, at the time referred to, was Dr. Brown of St. Matthew's, Halifax; and it does not appear that he troubled himself much about his fellow-religionists elsewhere.

About 1801, a large influx of emigrants arrived from home,—chiefly from the Highlands of Inverness and Sutherland shires. These knew more of the sectarianism of the old country, and the religious questions which were agitating the people there. Disputes arose, and sermons were preached from particular texts of Scripture:—parties were formed, and the Established Church of Scotland denounced in no measured terms from the pulpits. I began to take part in these disputes. My father was a staunch Kirkman, and of course I was one. No doubt a large amount of uncharitableness existed on both sides.

The first clergyman of the Church of Scotland that preached here was Mr. Fletcher, a young man who called at Pictou on his way to Canada. I was then a young man, but the impression on my mind to this day is, that he was the most impressive preacher I have ever heard. He was so different in his manner from the formal, stiff preaching we were accustomed to, that the impression he made on his hearers continued, on most, probably during life. He preached for four Sabbaths in this county: once in a tent on the Intervale near where the Albion Mines foundry is now; once at East Branch; once at West Branch; and once at Mount Thom. And considering the sparse population of the county then, he was followed by an immense number of hearers. The last sermon he preached here was at Mount Thom. The people of McLennan's Mountain—(myself among them)—went all the way there to hear him. It was nothing to walk ten or fifteen miles to hear a sermon in those days!

Such popularity gave great offence to our resident clergymen. Mr. McGregor first tried to get Mr. Fletcher to join his own Body; and this being declined by the young man, every means was used to annoy him. He was literally persecuted during his short stay; the most unworthy methods being resorted to with the view of injuring his character. The day on which Mr. Fletcher preached at Squire

McKay's Intervale, Mr. McGregor was from home; but Mr. McCulloch vacated his own church at Pictou and preached in Mr. McGregor's church to prevent the people going to hear Mr. Fletcher. The people, nevertheless, did go to hear him, and left Mr. McCulloch to preach to almost empty seats. Fifteen, it was said, were all the audience he had left. There was much bitterness and strife in those days; the alienation became wider and wider, until at last the parties separated and assumed their distinctive names of Kirk and Antiburgher.

About the year 1818 Rev. Donald A. Fraser arrived in Pictou and became the Kirk Minister of McLennan's Mountain and New Glasgow, with a salary of, *nominally*, £150, *but illy paid*; not twenty pounds in the year, in cash. I know this to be true, for I then took an interest, in earnest, in Church matters. Squire Fraser and myself had the charge of the New Glasgow part of the stipend (£75), and many an anxious day and hour did we spend in making out that sum out of "receipts," "orders," "entries" on merchants' books, etc., *but few or no "cash" payments!*

(To be continued.)

LETTER FROM SCOTLAND.

THORNHILL, DUMFRIESSHIRE, 1837.

DEAR MR. MELVILLE,—We had a very busy day of it on 21st JUNE, celebrating the Jubilee of Queen Victoria. An outline of what was done in the Parish of Morton may be taken as representative of almost every Parish in Scotland. The celebration was properly introduced by a religious service in the Parish Church, conducted by our respected Minister, Rev. Mr. Oswald, who had a very busy day of it. The service in the Church lasted about an hour; and as the Sabbath School children retired, they were all presented with a *Medal* in commemoration of the Jubilee. After this Mr. Oswald went to the Poorhouse and presided at a dinner provided for the inmates by Mrs. Dickson, a very worthy lady of the Parish. Afterwards he came into Thornhill and married a very worthy friend of mine, Mr. Allan (Architect to His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch or the Drumlanrig Estates,) to a very amiable young lady, whose father hails from Dundee. I hope they may both be spared to see their Jubilee wedding-day; but I need hardly say, "May I be there to see!" After this, all the children of the Parish met at the schoolhouse, to the number of SIX HUNDRED, and marched