

THE STRATHALBYN JUBILEE

g seated on the floor beams. After laying the floor and building a pulpit, Mr. McKenzie took up his bag and baggage and went to New Brunswick, leaving the interior of the building to be finished some years afterwards. Though not built after the model of modern buildings yet it was a substantial structure, thirty-five feet by forty-five, twenty feet post, two large windows in each side and one large window in each gable end to give light to the galleries. It had a door at each end. When well seated it would hold from five to six hundred people. For some years after it was first occupied the seats consisted of pieces of scantling, planks or boards laid on blocks of wood.

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed for the first time in the congregation in July, 1845, by the Rev. Alexander Farquharson, of Middle River, Cape Breton. He was one of that small band of the Church of Scotland ministers in Nova Scotia and P. E. Island who came out with the Free Church party at the disruption. He was assisted on this occasion either by the Rev. Murdoch Stewart of West Bay, C. B., or the Rev. John Stewart, New Glasgow, N. S. As hundreds of people came together from different parts of the Island to celebrate the solemn occasion, the congregation assembled was large. The services commenced with fasting and prayer on the previous Thursday, or which day the late Rev. Malcolm Ross, then of North River, preached a powerful Gaelic Sermon. Friday was occupied in discussing the questions, Saturday in preparatory services; the Sabbath, the day of ordinance, was a memorable day followed by thanksgiving on Monday. All the services were solemn and impressive, the evening services continuing till late in the night. On the occasion the solemn rejoicing and religious fervor that pervaded the assembled multitude would aptly remind one of the return of the children of the captivity from Babylon to build the walls of Jerusalem. Methinks that this was one of the songs which they sung:

"When Zion's bondage God turned back
Like men that dreamed were we;
Then filled with laughter was our mouth,
Our tongues with melody.

They 'mong the heathen said
The Lord great things for them has wrought,
The Lord for us great things has done,
Whence joy to us is brought." &c. &c.

'N trath thug Iehobha air a h-ais
Bruid Shion b'ionnan sinn Is daone
chunnic aising mhor
'Sa mhosgail a su'n, Lionadh ar heul le
gair an sin

Sar tengadh fòs le ceol, An meas nan cinneach thubhairt iad Rinn Dia dhoibh bearta mor. Rinn dia mor bhearta air ar son chuir ornanne gairdeachas. Iehobha, pill ar bruid a ris na shruith ann airde deas ladsan a chuir gu deurach siol, gu subhaidh ni iad busin. A neach gu cur a theid a mach le siol ro phriseal caon. Air bhith dha gul gu muladach ga iomchar sud gu foun L h-aiteas pillidh c gu Dearbha giulan tugaba trom.

Some eighty or a hundred people sat down to commemorate their Saviour's dying love. Three elders were ordained on this occasion, namely Alexander McLeod, Murdoch Buchanan, and Allan McSwain. Some fifty or sixty children were baptized on this occasion, many of whom were in their teens. The next minister that visited the congregation was the Rev. Mr. Sinclair, of West Cape, followed by the Rev. John Stewart, of New Glasgow; Rev. Dr. McLeod, of Sydney, Cape Breton and in 1848, by the Rev. John McAvish, delegate from the Free Church of Scotland. He is now pastor of the East Free Church Inverness, Scotland. Rev. Dr. D. B. Blair, of Barney's River, N. S., visited the congregation about this time, and also the venerable Rev. Dr. Forrester, for some time Professor in the Free Church College, Halifax and afterwards Principal of the Normal School, Truro, Nova Scotia. The first ordained missionary was Rev. Alexander McIntyre. He came from Scotland in 1848, and was stationed for two or three years between Brown's Creek, New London and Scotch Settlement. He was a powerful and zealous preacher. He left this Province in the year 1850 or '51, and emigrated from Scotland to Australia where he died ten years ago.

The first regular ordained minister settled over the congregation was the