

this grant for some time, Glasier, at length made it over to General Coffin, who also bought a large tract in connection with it for a mere nominal sum. Coffin at this time owned all the land that is now comprised in the settlements of Westfield, Welsford and Nerepis Valley. To induce parties to emigrate from the mother country and settle here, this large tract of country was divided into lots of 500 acres each, one of which was to be given gratis to any person who would cultivate the land. Coffin himself lived here on what is now called Coffin's Point, at the mouth of the Nerepis River and gave some attention to agricultural pursuits. In 1816 there were only four families living in all Nerepis.—Then there were no roads and all communication to St. John was by boats. Hence they knew but little of what was going on in the outside world and there was no eye but the eye of Jehovah to witness their spiritual destitution. Visits from a minister were like angel's visits "few and far between." The Sabbath was lightly esteemed and godly piety soon crushed out. When at a later date two or three Scotch families arrived, the readers of the RECORD can well imagine their demure looks when rising from their beds on the Sabbath morning and finding this hallowed day so ill-observed. Being accustomed to reverence the Lord's day in their fatherland, fancy their surprise when in the forests of Nerepis to see the sanctity of the Sabbath desecrated in such a signal manner by the women churning and the men splitting wood and hoeing potatoes. Such sights and scenes as these almost led our good old Scotch friends to doubt the propriety of making this new country their adopted home.—Soon, however, they were visited by clergymen who broke to them the bread of life.—The Episcopalians were the first who came among them and ministered to their spiritual wants. Occasionally they were assembled together on the Sabbath, yet that devout demeanor which now so largely characterizes the people of these settlements was not observed at these gatherings.—When the minister announced the chapter to be read, no rustling of the leaves of Bi-

bles greeted his ears as but few of the scattered families in the district possessed a copy of the good book. So scarce was it at one time that magistrates constables and other government officials when sworn into office had the oath administered with the book of Common Prayer. Besides being visited by the Episcopalians, the Presbyterians also came among them at intervals. Among the first who visited them was a layman a Mr. Tennant formerly a merchant of St. John. His visits were appreciated by the people and are still remembered by some of them. Occasional supply was given by the Free Church and at one time they enjoyed the services of a settled pastor.

But how changed the scene in Nerepis now from days of yore. The dense woods have to a large extent given way to the woodman's axe and fine farms and large tracts of cultivated land now greet the eye and the shrill whistle of the locomotive the ear. Flourishing Sabbath and day schools are now established, you will find a Bible in every house, no fewer than four churches throughout the whole district and the Lord's day devoutly observed. Great things have been wrought. Truly the desert has rejoiced and blossomed as the rose. Much, however, yet remains to be done by our own people here. The Presbyterian is now the predominant body yet we have no minister settled. No prayer meetings nor bible classes exist, and there are no elders throughout the whole district. The young—of which there are a large number in the varied settlements—are growing up without being instructed in the principles and doctrines of our church and hence are becoming estranged from us.—In connection with Jerusalem they could support a minister although some educating on systematic beneficence would be necessary before doing so. Being disappointed in their choice on one or two occasions they have allowed their zeal to flag. Let them take courage from what has been wrought among them ever remembering God reigns and that Jehovah Jireh will provide.

A. B. D.