

labor so faithfully in our Hall is a true benefactor of our church. No one can trace the history of the various branches of our now happily united church and not see the wisdom of our fathers in providing means for training a ministry at home. Had it not been for this our church would not occupy the place it does to-day in these Provinces. We need more of the spirit which animated the men who have gone before us. If the institutions for which they prayed and toiled should suffer from our neglect, we are not worthy to be called their sons. But if we, inspired by a like faith and fired by a like zeal, walk in their footsteps, the church of which we are proud to be members, shall continue to provide men thoroughly trained for their work and truly devoted to the cause of our Lord and Master!

### THE PROGRESS OF OUR CHURCH DURING THE LAST ONE HUNDRED YEARS.

ADDRESS BY REV. GEORGE PATTERSON, D. D.  
AT THE CENTENARY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF TRURO PRESBYTERY.

The subject assigned me by the Presbytery in their wisdom is one which I must say is not in accordance with my own taste. This is not merely from a predilection for antiquarian or historical researches, but for two reasons which I deem important. In the first place the ordinary style in which the progress of the church is discussed always seems to me to savour something of the sin of David in numbering the people. Details are given comparing the present with the past in a way which to me at least looks like the spirit of boastfulness manifested by that monarch, which brought upon him such a signal expression of the divine displeasure. But a second reason is that having been a good deal engaged in investigating her past history, I am impressed with the thought that she has not, particularly in the first half of the century, made the progress that she ought to have done. And when we come to enquire into the causes of this, instead of glorifying ourselves for what we have done, we will find reason as a church to humble ourselves for our shortcomings and unfaithfulness.

Still a review of the progress made may serve good purposes. Observing what has been accomplished, what difficulties have been overcome, we may learn faith in the

power of the gospel, and be encouraged and moved to greater exertions in the future, in the assurance that we shall roap if we faint not. And if we are careful to give God the glory, and at the same time humble ourselves before him for our deficiencies, we may expect increasing tokens of his favour.

Let me then proceed to compare the state of the Presbyterian church in these lands one hundred years ago, with what it is now. Then was formed the first Presbytery within the bounds of the Dominion, for although Dr. Gregg in his history calls the association of Congregational and Presbyterian ministers, who ordained Mr. Comingo at Lunenburg, a Presbytery, they never professed to act in such a capacity, and some of them being Congregationalists, would have repudiated the idea. Now there are 11 Presbyteries in the Maritime Provinces and 39 in the Dominion, besides those not in the union. And with a single exception, each of these greatly exceeds in numbers the original Presbytery, some of them containing three or four times as many ministers as were then to be found in the whole Dominion.

Let us then compare the number of ministers. There were five ministers present at the formation of the Presbytery, but two of these the Rev. James McGregor, who had just come to labour at Pictou, and the Rev. George Gillmore, who had very shortly before come to reside near Windsor, never considered themselves members. Besides these there were at the time three other Presbyterian ministers in the Province. In Halifax there was the Rev. Mr. Russell of the church of Scotland, who was minister of what was then known as the Protestant Dissenters church or Mather church, now St. Matthews church, and the Rev. Mr. Comingo at Lunenburg of the Dutch Reformed. Though by language and distance he and his people were separated from the rest of the church, and though differing somewhat in their forms from the Scottish churches, they were in reality Presbyterian in doctrine and church Government. In addition there was the Rev. James Murdock living at Lower Musquodoboit, making a total of at most eight ministers in the whole of the Maritime Provinces, and I may add that there were then only two in the Province of Quebec, one of whom had just commenced his labours at Montreal in the March preceding, or ten in