

each Presbytery, Synod, and now the General Assembly, viz.: the inquiry into, and report upon, the state of religion.

3. The colportage scheme. It was before the days of the British American Book and Tract Society. There was little religious literature in circulation. Mr. Baxter realized the need of it, and an overture from the Session of Onslow resulted in the church taking up the work of colportage, and in ten years under Mr. Baxter's management, \$20,000 worth of books were circulated with very slight aid from congregations, the sales covering nearly all expenses. To all parts of the country his agents found their way, carrying such works as those of Bunyan, Baxter, Boston, and Alexander, and a great variety of the best books and tracts. It was a noble scheme with far reaching and lasting results.

After his retirement from the ministry he kept a book store in Truro for a number of years until disabled by failing health. His jubilee services were celebrated by the Presbytery of Truro in 1882, in the church, at Onslow, and now a little more than three years later, and fifty-three years from the time of his first settlement there, devout men follow his remains to the same church, to hold service in connection with an event in his history of which it could be more truly said,

"The year of Jubilee has come."

THE LATE REV. P. G. MACGREGOR, D. D.

The Rev. P. G. MacGregor, D. D., was the youngest and last surviving son of the Rev. James MacGregor, D. D. He was born, in what is now the village of Stelarton, which was then his father's farm, on the 24th of July, 1817, being at his death in his 69th year. In early life his father had set his heart on having him study for the ministry, and during his boyhood days he walked to New Glasgow, then a village of a dozen or two houses, to school.

In 1832 at the age of 15 years he entered the institution at Pictou, then at the zenith of its prosperity, taking there his full course of four years. Immediately at the conclusion of his college course he entered upon the study of Theology, under the late Dr. McCulloch, then sole Professor in the Presbyterian Church in Nova

Scotia. The system of study pursued at that time was that the student met with the teacher for one month to receive instruction, and during the remainder of the year pursued their studies in private, preparing exercises for the Professor and Presbytery. During the progress of his studies he taught school in New Glasgow.

On the 27th April, 1841, he was licensed to preach the gospel, by the Presbytery of Pictou, and had thus been at the time of his death 44 years in the ministry. On the 27th of October following he was ordained at Guysboro', where there was quite a number of Presbyterians, and where there then seemed a prospect of forming a congregation. After laboring for a year or two in this difficult field, with a very small support, he received a call from the congregation which had then been just formed in Halifax, afterward known as that of Poplar Grove. This call was signed by twenty-two persons, the stipend was \$480; there were no elders, and there was much prejudice to be encountered. Fully sensible of the difficulties of the situation, but feeling it to be the call of duty, he undertook the work.

For twenty years he labored on, with what success the history of the congregation well shews. The little one became many, the small one a strong nation, and he had the satisfaction of taking the congregation at its beginning and seeing the pleasure of the Lord prospering in his hand until it became one of the leading congregations of the body to which it belonged.

After about twenty years of labor his health began to give way. An affection of the throat seemed likely to put a stop to his work as a preacher. He went abroad for a time and his health seemed to recruit. And now instead of lessening the work, a new field was opened up.

The public work of the church had been increasing and at the union of 1866 it was felt that the labor was such as to justify the appointment of an agent for the sole purpose of looking after this work. To take charge of this service Dr. MacGregor was appointed. At first it was thought that he might combine with the duties of this office a partial charge of the congregation, but this was found to be not satisfactory, and in 1866 he was separated from his charge and his whole time devoted to the public work of the church.