

months. From that time on he applied himself diligently to the study of languages. The Baptist churches at Horton, Liverpool, Windsor and Charlottetown, were his respective pastorates. At Liverpool, in 1838, he married Jane McNutt. A wonderful missionary sentiment was sweeping over Nova Scotia in and about the year 1846 while he was still pastor at Charlottetown, and when Professor Chipman of Acadia, remarked that the heathen at home should be looked after, and suggested to Dr. Rand that he learn the Indian language, the latter conceived of a lofty idea — to evangelize and civilize the Indians of the Maritime Provinces.

It is hard to realize what this decision meant for the preacher. It meant surrender of all the comforts and conveniences of a pastor's life for a life without any fixed income, perilous, tedious, and discouraging in its outlook; for the scheme, at the outset, did not have many ardent supporters. Such a life meant that most of his time would be spent in wigwams and in the woods, and his associations would be mostly with Indians, all of which required a spirit of self-sacrifice, patience and constancy. Nevertheless, no obstacles could disconcert the noble purpose of this man. Rather did they spur him on, for to him a gloomy prospect always served as a stimulus, a stepping-stone to higher and better things.

At that time, in 1846, the condition of the Indians was most deplorable indeed. They had made no progress for two hundred years. Their habitations, skillfully constructed wigwams, were degrading in their influence on morals and social life generally. Drunkenness and other vices, the result of the advent of civilization, were prevalent among them. The white man looked down on the Indian. He regarded him as a being inferior to himself in intellect, customs and privileges. It was the policy of the day to keep the Indians degraded and ignorant. Indian children were not permitted to attend a school where white children were taught. Some people even doubted that they had souls, and considered them mere animals. The Roman Catholic priests of the day kept them in darkness as to the real truth of the Gospel. Frequently they attempted to burn the books circulated among the Indians by Dr. Rand. All this made evangelization the more difficult.

As an essential aid to his work among the Indians he, first of all, set himself to learn their language. In this he was greatly helped by an intelligent Frenchman, Joe Brooks, who had married and settled among the Micmacs, and who could speak fluently both