

CHAPTERS IN THE  
HISTORY OF DIGBY

FC 2345  
L53  
H54  
1901  
p\*\*\*

SOME CHAPTERS

IN THE

HISTORY OF DIGBY COUNTY,

AND

ITS EARLY SETTLERS.

---

BY

REVEREND ALLAN MASSIE HILL, B. D.,

DIGBY, NOVA SCOTIA.

---

HALIFAX, N. S.:

McALPINE PUBLISHING CO., LTD.

1901.



**Dedication.**

**TO MY MOTHER.**

**THIS LITTLE VOLUME IS AFFECTIONATELY  
DEDICATED.**

"THOUGH the doom of swift decay  
Shocks the soul, where life is strong,  
Though for frailer hearts the day  
Lingers sad and over-long—  
Still the weight will find a leaven,  
Still the spoiler's hand is slow,  
While the future has its Heaven,  
And the past its long-ago."

—*Lord Houghton.*

## PREFACE.

---

THESE Chapters in the History of Digby County and its Settlers are by no means exhaustive, nor are they intended to be so. The facts have been collected by means of interviews with old inhabitants and much diligent research on the part of the writer.

Nothing has been included in these pages without an authority, and in every case a list of such authorities will be discovered at the conclusion of each chapter.

The genealogies are, as far as known, correct.

The aim throughout has been to present much information in a style at once simple and readable.

That a generous public may be lenient in its criticisms is all that the writer asks.



## CONTENTS.

---

### CHAPTER I.

Digby—Its situation and beauties.

### CHAPTER II.

The Early History of Digby Town and County.

### CHAPTER III.

State of Religion among the Loyalists—Majority of them attached to the Church of England.

### CHAPTER IV.

The same subject continued.

### CHAPTER V.

An account of the Presbyterian Families who were among the Early Settlers of Digby.

### CHAPTER VI.

Other Presbyterian Families who settled Digby.

### CHAPTER VII.

A short chapter concerning more Early Settlers.

### CHAPTER VIII.

*Early Worship among the Presbyterians—An account of the visits of Forsyth; Henry; Sommerville; Struthers; Martin and Sprott.*

### CHAPTER IX.

Visit of the Reverend John Currie, D. D., and the Reverend Mr. Goodfellow—An appeal made to the Church to send Ministers to Annapolis and Digby.

## CHAPTER X.

The coming of the first Student Missionaries to Bay View, Digby County.

## CHAPTER XI.

The Building, Opening and Dedication of the first Presbyterian Church in Digby County.

## CHAPTER XII.

A Summary of the Student Catechists who have labored in Digby County.

## CHAPTER XIII.

Same subject—continued.

## CHAPTER XIV.

The Presbyterian Board of Home Missions sends an ordained Missionary to labor in Digby.—The Erection of a New Church.

## CHAPTER XV.

A Chapter of some of the Accidents and Tragedies that have happened within the bounds of Digby County.

## CHAPTER XVI.

Folk-lore connected with Digby and its Settlers; some true and some probably untrue.

## SOME CHAPTERS

IN THE

# History of Digby County and its Settlers.

---

## CHAPTER I.

### DIGBY—ITS SITUATION AND MANY BEAUTIES.

Digby, the county town of Digby County, Nova Scotia, is situated on the western shores of Annapolis Basin, a sheet of water resembling very much the Bay of Naples, Italy. The entrance to this Basin, through which the waters of the Bay of Fundy flow, is called Digby Gut—a break in the mountain range through which the ocean has forced its way. The Basin possessing fifty square miles of water, renders boating and yachting a delightful pastime.

That Digby possesses many and varied attractions is best evidenced by the increasing number of tourists who seek rest and health on its charming shores every year. Of these many attractions I would mention first, its natural advantages, pure air, and unrivalled scenery.

Of all requisites for health pure air is most essential. Coming from the poisoned atmosphere of a large city, where the smoke and dust render the air so foul, and so unhealthy, the tired, weary and worn out tourist feels invigorated as the breeze from off the sea fills his lungs.

I was very much amused at the reply made to me by a nervous individual who had come to Digby, seeking health. "Do you feel better," I asked. "Better, well rather—why do you know that I am becoming disgustingly healthy." This but expresses the sentiment of one and all.

When we come to describe the beauty and loveliness of the scenery then it is that words fail. None but a Ruskin or a true artist can paint the picture with sufficient detail. The cloud effects; the exquisite sunsets; the various colors assumed by the waters of the Basin; the verdure of the surrounding hills; all defy the power of the pen to describe. Climb to the top of Beaman's Mount and a view of surpassing beauty is your reward. There you may catch a view of the old, historic, and venerable town of Annapolis, hiding behind Goat Island. There you may see a bird's eye view of Digby town; in the background the Big and Little Joggin and the triangular Island lying at the mouth of the Bear River. From another point the waters of St. Mary's Bay are to be seen, on the shores of which repose the thriving villages of Barton, Brighton, Plympton, and Weymouth.

The drives around Digby are numerous. Passing through Acacia Valley one can almost imagine that for the moment he has been translated soul and body to Switzerland; or journeying along the banks of the Bear River memories of the Highlands of Scotland fill the mind.

The continuation of the North Mountain range from Digby Gut to Brier Island, a distance of forty-

two miles, is called Digby Neck. This strip of land, situated between the Bay of Fundy and St. Mary's Bay, averages not more than two miles in width. Driving along the Neck road for a distance of twenty miles you come upon Sandy Cove, "one of the most beautiful outlooks on the continent!" I have heard this place described "as more like a poet's dream than a thing of reality." The towering cliffs, and high hills with quaint cottages on every side add beauty to the scene. Geologists who have visited this spot tell us that these cliffs were once volcanic. It is interesting therefore to search for the outlines of the crater. In fact the rocks everywhere disclose veins of agate and amygdoid with thin seams of native copper.

The marvellous rise and fall of tide which occurs along the shores of the Basin, the average being twenty-eight feet, is also of peculiar interest to the visitor.

The pleasures conveyed to the tourist by the endless varieties with which these beauties are presented to the eye, are so much things of course to us, that we scarcely think of their nature, their number, or the great proportion which they constitute in the whole mass of our enjoyment. It is true that the ever-varying brilliancy, and grandeur of the landscape, and the magnificence of the sky, sun, moon, and stars, enter more extensively into the enjoyment of mankind than we perhaps ever think or can possibly apprehend, without there be frequent and extensive investigation on our part.

## CHAPTER II.

## THE EARLY HISTORY OF DIGBY TOWN AND COUNTY.

Few places possess so much unwritten history as Digby.

“With a situation,” says a writer, “only a few miles from Port Royal, the oldest and most important settlement of Nova Scotian antiquity, it is almost certain that Digby was the scene of many stirring events, sharing with Port Royal her dangers, and her glories. The western shores of the Basin could tell, had they power to speak, of countless adventures; of pitched battles won and lost; of bloody strife or of interesting developments in early industry.”

The early French explorers make mention of the present site of Digby, and although, it is claimed that the Norsemen under Harold Harlfager visited the shores of Nova Scotia, yet in all probability Sieur DeMonts was the first to enter Annapolis Basin. History informs us that DeMonts received a patent in 1803 from Henry IV. of France. DeMonts' fleet consisted of four vessels; two of which he commanded himself, leaving the others to the direction of Champlain and Poutrincourt.

Proceeding south-west these explorers entered St. Mary's Bay. Campbell relates how that on the shores of St. Mary's Bay many of the Voyagers landed; among them a priest named Aubry, who having separated himself from his friends, and being unable to rejoin them, wandered in the woods for seventeen days, having subsisted during that period on

wild fruit. Aubry made his way through the woods covering that portion of land now known as Digby Neck, and was at last discovered by a party of his friends making feeble efforts to attract attention. His discovery brought joy and gladness, not only to his own heart but also to that of a certain Protestant who was suspected of having murdered the priest.

DeMonts and party sailed up the Bay of Fundy proceeding through Digby Gut, up Annapolis Basin to the spot where he founded Port Royal. Les-Carbot, one of DeMonts' company, writing back to France, said "that it was one of the most beautiful spots on earth."

Coming down to the year 1765 we find a grant made in that year to the township of Conway. Conway\*, I believe, was the nomen of one of the secretaries of State in the British Administration at the time the grant was given. This township of Conway, as far as can be ascertained, embraced the present Digby.

In 1766 a party of English from the Valley of Brandywine in New England came to Conway and settled on the western shore of the Basin. The leader of the party was one William MacDormand, who built a small log cabin somewhere on the site at present occupied by the Digby Baptist Church.

MacDormand's brother was the first settler over by the Grand Joggin, while his brother-in-law, FitzGerald by name, from Wilmot above Annapolis,

---

\*Conway was a General in the British Army. He held a command in Germany during the Seven Years' War, 1761. He was associated with Lord Grafton as Secretary of State in 1765 in the British Administration

selected as the site of his habitation the summit of the Catholic Chapel Hill. At the same time over towards the Racquette, there settled a Captain Webber; and on the further side of the Racquette Bridge, one Prince, established a trading station. These settlers arrived between the years 1766-7. Naturally the settlement was a sparse one extending towards the Joggin, but of what size, or what duration, we are not certain. Twenty years later the evidences were, that it had been broken up some time previous to that date. The presumed cause for its dissolution may be traced to the fact, that, during the War of Independence, waged between England and her American Colonies, these early settlers suffered much from privateers.

Dating from the year 1783 we rest on a more certain foundation, for in that year the real founding of Digby took place. A band of refugees, amounting to between two and three hundred families, great and glorious in their loyalty, abandoning their comfortable homes around which they had grown up in peace and happiness, came to found a settlement in the wilds of Nova Scotia. "They forsook alike their connections and friends in full faith and pure trust in British institutions rather than live under the tyrannic rule of a Republic."

As the vessels which bore them passed through the entrance to Annapolis Basin, a beautiful sight met the eyes of the Loyalist passengers. It was the early autumn of 1783, and the primeval forest stretched down the hill-side to the water's edge.

The anchors being cast, no time was lost by the way-farers in landing on the shores. Places were allotted by a Board of Agents appointed by the Imperial Government, whereon the Loyalists might erect dwellings for themselves and their families, ere the "Frost King" came with all his icy train to dispute with them the possession of the soil. Soon by indefatigable industry a considerable tract of forest was cleared and a large town plot regularly laid out. Before four years had passed away nearly two hundred houses were built, many of them genteel, decent habitations, and the comforts of a home began to cluster around them.

The Loyalists numbered thousands. Indeed Governor Parr, in writing to Lord North in 1783, intimates that 13,000 Refugees had arrived in Halifax, Annapolis and along the shores of Annapolis Basin.

From the Reverend Jacob Bailey, the Episcopal Rector in Annapolis at this time, we learn many interesting facts which throw considerable light on the condition of the Refugees. "In the month of October;" says he, "nine transports convoyed by men-of-war entered the Basin—five hundred souls of them—some of good education. Hundreds had to be accommodated in the churches, but there was a larger number for whom no abiding place could be discovered."

Coming down to the year 1784 we find a new grant given to the Loyalists in which the township of Conway becomes the township of Digby.

It appears that the Loyalists settling around the shores of Annapolis Basin were conveyed to their destination by the warship *Atalanta*, the flagship of Admiral Robert Digby. This Admiral was the son of Edward Digby, fifth Baron of Digby. In 1765 he was promoted to be Captain of the *Solebay*, frigate, and in the following year was advanced to command the *Dunkirk* of sixty guns. In August, 1781, he was sent as Commander-in-Chief to North America, and arrived just as his predecessor was preparing to sail for the *Chesapeake*, in hopes in a second attempt, to effect the relief of Cornwallis. Remaining in New York while Graves started on his vain errand, Digby afterwards accompanied Sir Samuel Hood to the West Indies.

It was in honour of this Admiral Digby that the Loyalists asked that their new home be called Digby.

Many of the Refugees brought the oak frames for their dwelling houses with them from New York. Some of these houses are still to be seen in Digby.

There is the house at present occupied by a family of Nichols', which tradition says was originally built for the Reverend Mr. Brudenell, Chaplain on board the *Atalanta*. Mr. Brudenell\* was of aristocratic family, and it was rumoured that on account of his extreme pride, and disdainful attitude, the people would not have him preach for them.

---

\*Brudenell was afterwards seen walking arm in arm on the streets of London with the Prince Regent.

The "Waverly Hotel" is also a building, the frame of which was brought from New York by the Loyalists. One of its early owners was Capt. Joseph Young, a pronounced and decided Quaker. He held regular Sabbath evening meetings.

On one occasion a youth named Letteney strayed into Young's service. His description of the meeting is rather interesting. "We sat, says he, for two hours in perfect silence, no one daring to stir; I enquired the cause of this silence and was told the Spirit had not, as yet, moved any one. We had not longer to wait, however, for a woman springing up, screeched and shouted in such a manner that I verily believed a broken blood vessel would be the consequence. When she ceased she acted as though she would faint. That was the last Quaker meeting I attended."

I have been told that Young owned a vessel called the *Dove*, which occasionally sailed to the West Indies. The boys seemed to delight in annoying Young by climbing up the masts of the *Dove*. Young's anger would always find expression in the words, "Git out ye young Sarpants."

In subsequent years the house, of which Young was the earliest owner, was used for a church, and the Reverend Roger Viets, one of the earliest Episcopal ministers in these parts, preached many an eloquent sermon in the front room. Since that time it has been utilised for many and various purposes, including a dress-making and tailoring shop; lawyer's, doctor's, and engineer's offices. It was

Vernon Smith's headquarters while the Western Counties Railway was in process of construction. At present it is the Waverly Hotel, a resort for American tourists.

Many more old homes are to be seen in Digby, notably McGrath's and Captain John Beaman's.

Previous to 1838 Annapolis and Digby formed one county called Annapolis County. But in 1838 a division took place forming the two counties of Annapolis and Digby.

Digby County contains two municipalities—Clare, largely made up of French,—and Digby.

On April the 26th, 1890, Digby town was incorporated.

T. C. Shreve, Esquire, was the first Mayor, and the Council consisted of Thomas Boyne, John Daley, Sydney Wood, Edmund Biden, Orbin Sproul and H. G. Turnbull. The town clerk appointed at that time was Allan B. Wade.

So much for Digby town. But it is not the whole of Digby County. In the commercial world such places as Bear River and Weymouth are thoroughly well known. The history of Bear River is of comparatively recent date.

As to the derivation of the name of this town there is a dispute into which I shall not enter. The generally accepted fact is that its name was derived from the French pronunciation of Imbert, a gentleman who formed one of a party visiting the spot as early as 1611.

“With the invasion of the United Empire Loyalists,” says a writer, “the settlement of the district commenced, and in 1784 the township of Clements, including both sides of the stream, was granted to certain English, Hessians and Waldeskians, who had served during the old Revolutionary war, and who at its close received grants of land in lieu of other pay, for the services they had rendered in that unfortunate struggle.”

Towards the close of the century there was a considerable movement from the townships of Granville and Annapolis to the hill country on the shores of Bear River.

Up to 1810 there had been no village visible but soon lumbering and ship-building began; stores and dwelling houses were erected and a thriving town was the result.

Weymouth was founded about the same time as Digby. The settlement was first called Sissiboo, then it was changed to Weymouth, after the river Wey.

In a note in Taylor's manuscript, we read that the Reverend Roger Viets accompanied the Bishop, the Right Reverend Charles Inglis, to Sissiboo in 1788.

In the summer of 1768 the English authorities gave permission to forty-four Acadians from Windsor and Annapolis to take lands along St. Mary's Bay as far down as ten miles below the Sissiboo River. Joseph Dugas, taking advantage of this opportunity, left Annapolis with a wife and child and walked through the forest a distance of forty-five miles, to

what is now known as Doucett's Point. Here on the hill was made the first settlement of Clare, September 5th, 1768.

Very soon Dugas was joined by twelve families from Annapolis, and with nearly as many more from Massachusetts, the settlement of Clare widened and stretched itself, gradually extending to Meteghan; Salmon River and Beaver River on one side and to New Edinboro on the other.

Digby Neck and the Islands date their settlement from the time of the Loyalists.

The first settler on Long Island was a Haines from New England. "At the time he reached the Cove on the Western extremity there were three families on Briar Island."

As to when Westport was settled that point is unknown, but certain it is that Briar Island and the Neck have a history of not much beyond a century.

I might add that the builder and owner of the first frame house in Bear River was Captain O'Sullivan Sutherland, who came in 1785. All the houses erected before that year were constructed of logs. About a mile from the town of Digby is a settlement, largely composed of negroes, called Jordantown. It appears that during the Revolutionary war a colored corps was formed by the Royalists in or near York for services against the Rebels. It was designated the "Negro" or "Black Pioneers." On the dissolution of this corps at the proclamation of peace, those negroes, who did not accept a free passage to Africa, migrated with the Loyalists to Digby, where lands

were granted to them. Their descendants are still to be found in Jordantown.

Another village about six miles distant from Digby is Broad Cove.

Savary tells how in the summer of 1812, an American privateer came up the Bay of Fundy and attempted a landing for predatory purposes at Broad Cove and was driven off by the militia. She returned in a few days and a sharp skirmish ensued between her crew and the militia, which resulted in the capture of her captain and a prize master, and their conveyance to Annapolis as prisoners of war.

#### AUTHORITIES.

- I. Campbell's "History of Nova Scotia."
- II. Calnek's "History of the County of Annapolis."
- III. "Side-lights of Digby History," a series of articles published by the *Digby Courier* many years ago.
- IV. Much first-hand information obtained by the writer from old records and family Bibles.
- V. "Dictionary of National Biography," Volume XV.

## CHAPTER III.

STATE OF RELIGION AMONG THE LOYALISTS—  
MAJORITY OF THEM ATTACHED TO THE  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

The majority of the Loyalists were attached to the Church of England but they had no pastor amongst them.

Many of the people had relapsed into a state of heathenism. Being subject to no restraint, gambling, cock-fighting, horse-racing and drinking prevailed to an alarming extent.

An atrocious conspiracy, planned by a man named Young, with fifty desperadoes, to murder Isaac Bonnell, a Justice of the Peace, on a night when the principal inhabitants were at the Assembly; to plunder the town, place the goods on board a vessel and make their escape to Boston, was discovered just in time to prevent the consummation of the nefarious design.

A half-pay officer by name James Foreman, who taught school in aid of his scanty income, endeavored to effect a reformation in the morals of the people by assembling together his school children and as many others as would join him, on Sundays, to say the prayers of the Church of England, read a sermon and catechise the children. This effort, however, met with little success.

During the summer of 1784 the Reverend Jacob Bailey of Annapolis visited Digby, preaching to large congregations and baptising many children.

About this time and subsequent to his visit, Mr. Bailey wrote to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel urging the appointment of a missionary to Digby, which he described as a large and flourishing town. The Society, through their secretary, intimated to the people of Digby their intention of sending a clergyman to them, and in April 1785, Mr. Bailey was informed by the Right Reverend Dr. Seabury, the first bishop of the American Church, who had just returned from Scotland, whither he had gone to obtain consecration at the hands of the non-juring or Scotch bishops, that the appointment of a missionary was now settled. Upon hearing from the Secretary, the people of Digby, through Mr. Wilmot, wrote to the Reverend Jacob Bailey informing him that the Presbyterians were very desirous of being first in the field, hoping thereby to get possession of the glebes; and asked him to visit and instruct them as to their proper mode of procedure. Acting upon the advice of Mr. Bailey, the people petitioned the Society to appoint a young man, Dunnette by name, a Loyalist, who was then in England, seeking orders.

Their application was not granted. However, early in July 1786, the Reverend Roger Viets, formerly Rector of St. Andrew's Church at Simsbury, Connecticut, arrived in Digby as the missionary of the Society.

Of the inducements that caused Mr. Viets to come to Digby he speaks, as follows :

“ The people of my new mission (Digby) have no settled minister of whatever denomination of constant

abode. Within a compass of eighteen miles more than three hundred families will receive a supply of their spiritual necessities."

On the 28th. day of August, 1785, the Reverend Mr. Scovil of St. John, New Brunswick, being in Digby, Mr. Viets desired that he might be inducted according to the Governor's mandate. There being no church erected, the two clergymen, the Church Wardens, and Vestry with a number of the inhabitants proceeded to the ground whereon it was proposed to erect a church. After appropriate prayer had been offered by Mr. Scovil; the Reverend Roger Viets was inducted into Trinity Parish as its first Rector.

An agreement was made with Messrs. Roome and Moore, attorneys for Francis James, to rent the house of the latter gentleman to be used as a church at the rate of five pounds per annum to commence on the arrival of Mr. Viets.

The Reverend Roger Viets was allotted a large tract of land on the Light House road where he took up his abode. The property is now occupied by Botsford Dakin, whose maternal relative was Miss Mary Viets, a descendant of the Reverend Roger Viets, to whom the property was left.

Shortly after the induction of Mr. Viets efforts were made to erect a place of worship in Digby. In a memorial to the Honourable Robert Digby, Rear-Admiral of the Red-Squadron of His Majesty's fleet, the Rector, Church Wardens, and Vestry of Trinity Parish say "we to the number of two and three hundred families have taken our lot at this place

and settled this town which not quite four years past was a thicket of impenetrable woods. There is one great unhappiness attending us, that is, we have no place to the worship of Almighty God. As this town took its name from you, and as we are informed with your approbation, we therefore conceive it to be under your immediate patronage ; from which circumstance we are emboldened to beg your assistance and bestow on the infant settlement something towards enabling us to build a small, but decent, church to be dedicated to the worship of God."

In answer to this letter Admiral Digby enclosed a draft of one hundred pounds sterling, and promised fifty pounds more from his friends.

The more wealthy of the Loyalists began to tire of living in the infant settlement and began to remove, some to England ; others to New Brunswick ; some to other parts of Nova Scotia ; and many back to the United States. Those who had subscribed towards the erection of a church, met with a remonstrance from the Vestrymen. It would appear that Francis Conihaine and his wife had subscribed twenty pounds towards the building of the Church. On hearing of his intention to remove, two of the Church Wardens, —Colonel Hatfield and James Wilmot,—waited upon Mr. Conihaine, to know if he intended, to pay the said twenty pounds before his departure, and to demand it, of him. He gave them for answer " O, yes to be sure I do, when the church is building." They told him that he would then be in the United States, and that, then they could not demand it of

him; and that the subscription list, which he had signed, was binding. Conihaine replied that he would leave sufficient money behind him with an agent.

The Vestry voted it to be a refusal on the part of this gentleman to pay the subscription. His name was ordered to be underwritten in the books of the church. The following entry was therefore made, "Whereas Mr. Francis Conihaine refuses to pay his subscription to Trinity Church this is therefore to forbid all masters of vessels, or boats of any kind, to carry off the said Francis Conihaine until he has paid the said twenty pounds or given satisfaction for the same."

This prompt action brought about a compromise as ten pounds was paid by Conihaine on the 24th. of July 1787.

On the 19th of the succeeding January, Major Milledge, who by the way was one of the first members to represent Digby County in the Provincial House, presented Governor Parr's permission appointing him with Andrew Snodgrass, Colonel Hatfield, John Fowler and John Smith as commissioners to receive and expend three hundred pounds, given by the Governor towards building a church in the town of Digby, to inspect the building of the said church and to pay out the money, rendering an account of the manner of the expenditure. Agreeable to the Vestry, a committee was appointed composed of James Wilmot, Patrick Haggerty, and Samuel Warne, to meet at the house of Major Milledge, and

with the aid of Jesse Keene, carpenter, to make out an estimate.

The work of building the church was at last begun, and the Bishop of Nova Scotia, the Right Reverend Charles Inglis, D. D., whilst on his way to St. John, stopped long enough to lay the corner-stone of Trinity Church on the 30th. day of July 1788. "We assure your Honour" says the Wardens in a letter to Admiral Digby," that the situation of the place upon which we are erecting the church, is very agreeable to your wish, being the centre of the plan of this town. The Right Reverend Bishop Ingiis, being now on the spot, and who highly approves of the situation has promised to give you the same information and recommend us to your bounty.

"We have enclosed you a plan of the ground floor of the inside of the church, in which there is a pew reserved for your Honor ; and as we have obtained the Kings' Arms, about four feet square, to put on the Governor's pew, we should be happy to have Your Honour's Coat-of-Arms to put upon your pew."

The supplication of the Vestry was granted by Admiral Digby and in old Trinity Church there was always to be seen the Admiral's pew. The church being completed it was dedicated in 1791, the Rector at the time being, the Reverend Roger Viets.

Mr. Viets was a scholar and gentleman, an able and eloquent preacher of the Gospel. In a sermon preached by him at the annual meeting of the parishioners convened on Michaelmas day, 1788, Mr. Viets said : "'Tis with the greatest

grief and indignation that we perceive vice triumphant and virtue ridiculed. Drunkenness, idleness, profane-swearing, tavern-haunting, slandering, back-biting, lying, defrauding and stealing, call loudly for the exertions of the magistrates, to raise the sword of law and justice, for the suppression and punishment of these vices.

The chief source of these calamities lies, in the neglect and contempt of the Lord's day, and the public and sacred duties belonging to it. I hope the magistrates, Wardens and Vestry, will exert themselves to prevent common labor, unnecessary travel and idle diversions on the Lord's day; to prevent unprincipled and irreligious persons from preventing their neighbours attending God's worship and disturbing those who do attend.

Mr. Foreman will teach for the present twelve poor children gratis; after proper notification the Church Wardens and Vestry will meet to receive such qualified children as are offered.

I have nothing further to say, but strongly urge peace and unity, in all your proceedings as becomes the Gospel of Christ, the Honour of Religion and the Happiness of Man-kind."

The election of Church officers then commenced and Frederick Wm. Hecht, and Richard Hill, were chosen Church Wardens.

William Hecht was appointed treasurer of the church, and it was ordered that Flarvell the sexton "do repair the benches which were broken at the annual meeting on Michaelmas day."

A memorandum made in the writing of Mr. Hecht on June 7th. 1789, states that "Mr. Viets absented himself on the 3rd. instant from the parish and cure without consulting and obtaining leave of the Vestry."

Divine service was conducted by James Foreman, Clerk to Trinity Parish."

At the meeting of the Vestry in September it was voted that "as twelve shillings and nine pence half-penny had been collected in church on Sundays, during the absence of the Rector the same be given to James Foreman, who has officiated during the absence of the Rector."

#### AUTHORITIES.

- I. A manuscript discovered by the writer belonging to the late Sheriff Taylor.
- II. Records of Old Trinity in the possession of the Rector.
- III. Recollections of early days told by James Dilkes Letteney and Judge Holdsworth to the writer.

## CHAPTER IV.

## THE SAME SUBJECT CONTINUED.

All was not harmony and peace in these early times. Divers of the congregation separated themselves and set up a House of Worship in opposition. The Rector urged the Wardens to write to the Bishop of Nova Scotia concerning the matter; whereupon the following letter was sent, which bears the date of the 19th of November, 1788:

“His Excellency the Governor was pleased to appoint certain Commissioners for the purpose of applying the money allowed us by Government to the uses for which it was intended. These Commissioners were originally five in number, viz.: Milledge, Snodgrass, Fowler, Hatfield, and Smith. The history of these gentlemen is shortly this, Snodgrass resigned a few weeks after the appointment; Milledge has lately left this settlement and now resides in the upper part of this county. Hatfield and Smith have withdrawn themselves and families from the Church entirely, so that Mr. Fowler is the only one remaining attached to the Church.

A number of our brethren who had served us as parish officers and who offered themselves to be re-chosen at our last meeting, but being disappointed, have from mere resentment and principles of opposition and party spirit used their utmost endeavours to ruin the Church, in contempt of the Bishop; in opposition to the laws of Great Britain, this Province

and Government ; in disobedience to their Rector, and to the grief of their Brethren, and scandal to themselves, established a separate, unlawful meeting, where they attend regularly in the fore and afternoon on every Sunday. James Wilmot officiates as their clergyman, reading sermons and performing all other parts of the service used in the Church of England, to provoke and insult our Rector, who wishes to support the Established Church and pay obedience to the laws.

A number of young, giddy, and unthinking people are seduced by the leaders of faction to assemble with them on Sundays and go in a body to their meeting, past our Church. Their glaring irregularities must be very disagreeable and grievous to our much esteemed Rector, who has, in our opinion, uniformly shown himself the kind father of his Parishioners, his precepts sound, his performances pious and strictly regular, his conduct humble, humane and irreproachable. Of his abilities you are the best judge. Should we in our present station omit laying before your Reverence a representation of the conduct of these men, we would conceive ourselves guilty of a breach of our duty. We have now enclosed you a list of the names of the heads of this separate meeting, not taking any notice of the lower class of people that attend."

Another letter was written by the Wardens to the Bishop asking that they be furnished with a Book of Articles, Constitution and Canon Ecclesiastic. This breach or secession of a portion of the members of the

Church was doubtless satisfactorily healed, and the Seceders brought back and harmony restored, as no further mention is made of the Separatists.

When in September, 1791, Bishop Charles Inglis was on a visit to Digby the following address was presented to him :

*To the Rt. Reverend the Bishop of Nova Scotia and its dependencies. The humble and respectful Address of the Society of Free and Accepted Masons :*

RIGHT REVEREND SIR,—We, the Master, Wardens and Brethren of Digby Lodge, No. 6, of the Ancient, United, and Charitable Society of Free and Accepted Masons, beg leave to approach your presence with hearts overflowing with joy and gratitude on this, your second courteous and pious visit to our loyal settlement.

As our community is founded on, and supported by, Divine Mystical Architecture, so shall we with the brightest ecstasy of pleasure attend on your dedication of that majestic, and beauteous Fabric, the foundation corner-stone of which you did us the honour to fix at your former visit.

We joyfully embrace this happy opportunity in the most public and explicit manner, to testify our most hearty thankfulness to His Majesty, and the British Government, to Admiral Digby, to Governor Parr, our very worthy Provincial Grand Master, and our other gracious benefactors for their assistance, encouragement and support in our great, but neces-

sary undertaking to erect an edifice for the worship of our Creator.

And especially to our learned, able and Heavenly-minded Bishop, for all his kind care, for all his truly fraternal affection towards us, both before, and since his advancement to his high and honourable station.

May Almighty God long preserve your valuable life as a distinguished blessing to Church and State; to the Gospel and the Poor. May you be blessed with health, peace and content in this world, and receive a joyful crown of Glory in the World to come.

(Sgd,) JAMES FOREMAN, *Secretary*.

The Bishop replied as follows :

“GENTLEMEN,—I feel myself very much obliged by your very affectionate address, and request that you will be pleased to accept of my sincere thanks.

It gives me the truest pleasure to find the Church of which I formerly laid the corner-stone, in so advanced a state, and now ready for consecration. The workmanship appears to be well executed, the Edifice is convenient and elegant, and does credit to those concerned in constructing it. I most sincerely rejoice that the inhabitants of Digby have so decent a house for the public worship of Almighty God—may His blessing accompany the Ordinance that shall be therein administered. The attendance of your respectable Society will add much to the solemnity of the Dedication. The grateful sense of His Majesty's fraternal care—of the munificent aid granted by the

British Government—of the assistance received from His Excellency our worthy Governor, and of the liberal donation from Admiral Digby, which you thus publicly and explicitly testify is highly pleasing to me and what I naturally expected from the loyal inhabitants of Digby. Permit me to add that your unshaken loyalty to the best of earthly sovereigns, and your firm adherence to our excellent Church, cannot fail of attaching me to you still more, and increasing that regard and esteem for you which was the result of our former connection.

Possessed as I am of these sentiments, I cannot suppress the real joy I feel on observing the peaceful and flourishing state of this district. The difficulties unavoidably incident to emigration and first settlement of a new country are now happily surmounted, and you can with little interruption avail yourselves of the great and many natural advantages presented by your situation. If some mistaken people who were blind, through prejudice, to those advantages, have left you, they have been replaced by others, who I trust, will be no less serviceable to the community. And the spirit of harmony and industry which evidently prevails, will be productive of the most beneficial effects.

I pray the Almighty to take you and the other inhabitants of this place under His gracious protection. May that benevolence and brotherly love, which are so characteristic of your Society, may pure religion and peace take up their abode among you, and may prosperity and contentment, their

usual concomitants, be your portion. These are the wishes of,

Gentlemen,

Your affectionate servant,

(Sgd.) CHARLES NOVA SCOTIA.

I may say that the "Trinity Church" in Digby to-day is not the original building. The present "Holy Trinity" parish was translated from the Rector of the parish, the Reverend Dr. Ambrose and corporation of Trinity Church, to His Lordship, Bishop Binney, to be dedicated to the service of Almighty God, and was consecrated under the name of "Holy Trinity" on October 15th, 1880.

A stroll through the old burying-ground surrounding the Church, and reading the inscriptions on the tomb-stones proves an highly interesting task. Here may be discovered the resting-places of many of those Loyalists, who out of admiration for "British Institutions" forsook their homes.

To mention some of the earlier ones.

The body of MARY GETSHENS,  
lieth here.

Who departed this life,  
November 17th, A. D., 1785.  
Aged 37 years.

Here lies the body of  
THOMAS GILBERT, 3rd son of  
Major Gilbert.

He was born in Birkley in the County of Bristol in Massachusetts. He departed this life on the 28th August, 1793, in the 27th year of his age.

In memory of  
JAMES WILMOT.  
Died December 15th, 1804.  
Aged 77 years.  
The first Church Warden of  
Trinity Church in Trinity Parish.

Here lieth the body of  
JANE HILL,  
Consort of Richard Hill.  
Died 6th of June, 1800, aged 60 years.  
Born in Ireland. Descended from the illustrious  
families of Bruce and Stuart.

In memory of  
THOS. HOLDSWORTH.  
Who died at sea, Sept. 9th, 1798,  
and was interred at Digby.  
Aged 36 years.

“ Behold and see when you pass by,  
As you now are, so once was I,  
As I am now, so must you be  
Prepare for death and follow me.”

In memory of  
DAVID WILLIAM FANNING.  
Who died in 1810.  
Aged 16 years, 11 months, 11 days, 37 minutes  
and a few seconds.

AUTHORITIES.

- I. Correspondence of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.
- II. Records of Trinity Church.

## CHAPTER V.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE PRESBYTERIAN FAMILIES WHO WERE AMONG THE EARLY SETTLERS OF DIGBY.

All the Loyalists were not Episcopalians. Among them were many Presbyterians, chief of whom was Samuel Thompson, a student catechist, who settled in the direction of Mount Pleasant, and preached to the Presbyterians in different houses. Thompson was un-ordained. It is said that when the Reverend Mr. Dimock, the first Baptist minister in these parts, came to Digby, Thompson opened his house to him.

Another Loyalist Presbyterian family was that of William Letteney and wife, and son John, who came from New York. This son John married Eleanor Baxter, a Scotch girl, on January the 28th, 1807, and some of his children still live in Digby.

Two of his sons, James Dilkes Letteney, who received the name of Dilkes from an English officer who during the war of 1812 was in command of the fort at Digby Gut, and John Letteney, are still alive and in Digby, although both very old men. It is rather an interesting fact that on May the 15th, 1815, the day of the birth of John, there was fine sledding, the snow being so deep that the oxen could not make a passage through it.

John and Eleanor Letteney had in all ten children, all of whom received baptism at the hands of the

Reverend William Forsyth, the first Presbyterian minister in Western Nova Scotia, stationed then at Cornwallis.

In 1786 there came out from Jedburg, Scotland, and settled at Digby Gut in a house no longer standing, William Turnbull, his wife and three sons, Robert, George and William. With him he brought a certificate from the Presbyterian congregation of Jedburg, Scotland. The following is a copy of the certificate, the original of which is now in the possession of Mr. Geo. A. Turnbull :

*“Jedburg, April the 3rd, 1786.*

The bearer, William Turnbull and wife, have been members of the congregation of Jedburg in full communion for several years preceding the date hereof; behaving themselves soberly and decently, leaving the congregation with an unstained character. As also two sons, George and William Turnbull, who have behaved themselves soberly and decently according to their years. Given by order of session and subscribed by

W.M. BLACK, *Clerk of Session.*”

There accompanied this family a Miss Helen Brown, a sister of Mrs. William Turnbull, commonly known as Auntie Brown, who, disappointed with the wildness of her new home, and pining for the Highlands of Scotland, fretted herself to death on October the 5th, 1807, aged 73 years. Her remains lie interred in Trinity Church cemetery.

The spot at the Gut where they settled was nothing but a dense forest. No roads or footpaths, everything as nature had formed it, there was only one means of approaching the town, a distance of four miles,—that was to walk the shore at low tide.

One of the sons of Mr. Turnbull, William by name, at the time of his arrival was but a boy of ten. Being sent one day on an errand to town, he encountered a man on the shore dressed completely in black and wearing a silk hat. The man apparently was unconscious of the presence of any one, and continued to whirl, in the wildest manner, a stick round his head screeching at the top of his voice. Young William became so alarmed that he ran into the woods, and climbing a tree, remained there all night. This strange man was never again seen or heard. In all probability he committed suicide, and his body was carried away into the Bay of Fundy by the strong current of the Gut.

Of the three sons of William Turnbull, Robert, the eldest, was the first to marry. He was a captain in the militia, and built the house at present occupied by William Ellis, Junior, at Bay View. It was said that Robert would never receive money on the Sabbath day, and rather than see a tramp walk the roads on the Lord's day he would offer him hospitality. For many years there boarded with Robert a Scotch pedlar by name, Jimmy Young. Jimmy, so report says, was a bigoted Presbyterian who would never listen to any but Scotch doctrine. On one occasion Mr. Young loaned money to a friend who

refused to repay it. Whereupon Young composed the following lines and offered them for sale :

## I.

Once I had money and had friends,  
My friends did me admire ;  
I lent my money to my friends  
As friendship did require.

## II.

I asked my money from my friends,  
Their anger did arise ;  
I lent my money to my friends  
Because I was unwise.

## III.

If I had money and had friends  
As I had once before,  
I'd keep my money and my friends,  
And play the fool no more.

As I have said Robert was the first son married. His wife's name was Miss Anne Thompson of Annapolis. Robert had ten children, whose names were as follows :—

Jean, the first child, married Wm. Emery of New Hampshire and the descendants of this union are still to be found in the United States.

Elizabeth, the second daughter, married John Wright of Digby. Mrs. Fenwick, at present residing in Digby, was a daughter by this union. Mary, the third daughter, married James Dilkes Letteney, concerning whom reference has been made above. G. I. Letteney, at present Mayor of Digby, and John Letteney, merchant, were children of this daughter Mary.

Ellen, the fourth daughter, married Warrington of Mount Pleasant, where her descendants still live.

The fifth child, Margaret, died in infancy, while William, the sixth child and first son, married a Miss Wright of Digby.

The seventh child was Alexander. He married a Miss Warrington of Mount Pleasant. Mrs. Alexander Turnbull is still living at Lansdowne on the Bear River Road, and on Saturday, August 12th, 1900, attained her 92nd birthday. When the writer had the privilege of conducting worship in the Union Church at Lansdowne last February, this old lady walked to the church, a distance of two miles.

George, the eighth child, married on July the 4th, 1837; Harriet E. Fanning. Miss Fanning was the grand-daughter of Colonel David Fanning who; being driven from the United States for his loyalty; settled in Nova Scotia. His son, Ross Currie Carr Fanning, born the 30th. May, 1791, and died in September, 1871, married in March, 1814, Sara Woodman.

Harriet was a daughter by this union and married George Turnbull in 1837. Their children were :

Ross F., born January 6th, 1838.

Robt. D., born March 15th, 1840.—obit.

George H., born September 15, 1842.—obit.

Alice, who married Alexander Young.—obit.

David Augustus, born August 15th, 1848.

John O., born August 28th, 1850.

Charles Edward, born October 10th, 1852.

Sarah Amelia, born August 6th, 1855.

Harriet Ann, born May 12th, 1859.

The majority of these children received baptism in the Presbyterian Church. Many of them still live with their families on the Light House Road.

The ninth child of Robert Turnbull was John, who married twice, first Miss Nichols, and upon her demise Miss Morehouse, who was the mother of Dr. Turnbull of Yarmouth.

The tenth and last child Denis, by name, died in infancy.

These were all descendants of Robert, the oldest son of William Turnbull, who emigrated from Jedburg, Scotland, in 1786.

We now turn our attention to George, the second son of William Turnbull. George, born 1776, died December 30th, 1815, married Isabella Baxter of Edinburgh, and lived in the old homestead at Bay View. His children were—William Baxter, who married Eliphah Tucker of the Ridge Road,—Robert and George, who were twins,—Elizabeth and Margaret.

The children of William Baxter Turnbull were—Charles, William Wallace who died last year in St. John, New Brunswick, and who endowed the "Home for Incurables" in the city of St. John.

Pamelia the wife of Charles E. Burnham of Digby.  
Evelyn, obit.

Jean who married Judge Steadman of St. John.  
Isabella, dead.

Amira, the wife of Hon. A. F. Randolph of Fredericton.

Helen, married Mr. Henry Chestnut of Fredericton.

Margaret, who was drowned while bathing in the St. John river, married John Babbitt. The manner of her death was extremely sad. Her neices,—Maggie Chestnut, and Helen Randolph, went in bathing in the St. John river, while Mrs. Babbitt sat on the bank watching them. Being startled by the cries of the girls who had gone beyond their depth, Mrs. Babbitt rushed into the river and made a gallant attempt to rescue Maggie Chestnut. Both, however, were drowned, but Miss Randolph, was rescued. Mrs. Babbitt was often heard to remark that she would die for her sister Helen. This she did not do, but she died for her sister Helen's daughter—Maggie Chestnut.

A poem describing the sad event was written at the time by Miss Minnie H. H. Daniels, from which the following verses are selected :

There is one that moment sees them  
 Battling death on every side,  
 And her noble heart that moment  
 Plunges in the sweeping tide.  
 Out beyond her depth she struggles,  
 Grasps one form and holds it fast,  
 One faint cry, one noble effort,  
 And life's scenes for them were past.

Cold in death no more to greet them,  
 Perished in the treacherous tide,  
 That so short ago was beaming  
 Bright and happy at their side ;  
 And a husband bowed in anguish,  
 And two loving children weep  
 O'er that loving wife and mother  
 In her quiet, dreamless sleep.

Of the twin sons, Robert and George, Robert married Clarissa Betts. He died of scarlet fever on December 18th, 1844, aged 37 years.

His children were Hiram, and Henry, who both died in infancy.

Betsy, who married a Lyons of Milton, Massachusetts.

Isabella, who wedded Rogers of Maine.

Eliza, the wife of Jno. Townsend of Newburyport.

Francis, who married Doctor Brackett of Boston.

And John Baxter, who died in Lynn.

The other twin, George by name, wedded Isabella Turnbull, his first cousin. He died in 1862. Referring to his death the "Colonial Presbyterian" of May 15th, 1862, said, "Mr. George Turnbull died at Hillsburg on Tuesday, April 22nd, after a long and severe illness of consumption, in the 55th year of his age, leaving a sorrowing widow and three children to lament the loss of a loving and affectionate husband, a kind and tender parent, and a beloved friend.

The deceased was a son of Mr. George Turnbull, senior, who, with his father, emigrated from Jedburg, Scotland, to this place about 1786. On the day of the interment of Mr. Turnbull a sermon for the occasion was preached by the Reverend J. Taylor from II. Corinthian v : 8-9."

George Turnbull had three children, Watson, born August 13th, 1843, and died in 1865.

Rachael Isabella, who died at the age of nineteen under rather sad circumstances. She drove to Clementsport to attend a wedding feast. On her

return, as she was leaving the carriage to enter her house, she was suddenly taken with profuse bleeding of the lungs. This continued for hours and hours, and finally this bright young girl passed away.

From a wedding feast with all its attendant merry-making and revelry to a death-bed, was sad in the extreme. The loss of her only daughter was a great blow to the mother; a blow from which she never really recovered. "Truly in the midst of life we are in death."

Eber, the sole surviving child, born July 13th, 1854, resides at present in Digby. He is a member of the Digby Presbyterian Church, and one of its chief supporters.

Mr. Eber Turnbull has been twice married. His first wife was a Miss Sara Maria Hendricks, a daughter of Col. C. J. Hendricks of Norton Station, New Brunswick. The children by this union were—

Lena Stillwell, born 1878—died Dec. 15th, 1884.

Eber Hendricks, " 1880.

Conrad Percy, " 1882.

Emma Arnold, " 1893.

Mr. Turnbull married a second time, upon the death of his first wife, a Miss Maud Crozier of Annapolis Royal. The following children have been born:

Bevis Watson—born April 22nd, 1896.

Helen deBalinhard—born September 21st, 1899—  
—the first child to be baptized in the new Presbyterian Church, Digby.

The fourth child of George Turnbull was Elizabeth, who married Cornelius Hinxman of Bay View. The following is taken from the "Presbyterian Witness":

"On Friday, July the 5th, 1895, Mrs. Cornelius Hinxman entered into her rest. She was born May 29th, 1805, and had thus reached the ripe age of 90. Her parents came from Scotland over a century ago. Her father, George Turnbull, was a native of Jedburg; her mother Isabella Baxter, of Edinburgh.

She spent her long life near the place of her birth. In 1830 she married Cornelius Hinxman, and of their ten children, seven survive. She was a devoted and consistent member of the Presbyterian Church. In her younger days the only attention the Church in this section received was an annual visit from a clergyman. She frequently related the incidents connected with the visits of such pioneers as Sprott, Christie, Gordon and Macgregor. When our Church organized a mission at Bay View, and in 1875 dedicated a church, her name appeared as one of twelve on the first communion roll.

Her late husband, Cornelius, died in 1880, and was buried on the day marking just fifty years from the date of their marriage. Mrs. Hinxman's religious connection was with the Presbyterian Church, of which she was a loyal member. The funeral took place on Monday, the Reverend R. S. Whidden of Bridgetown, officiating."

Her children were the following :

George—obit,	James Betts,
Thomas,	Robert,
Charles;	William,
Dykeman—obit,	Margaret,
Roland,	Isabella—obit.

The fifth and last child of George Turnbull was Margaret, who married Captain Betts of Digby town. Captain Betts sailed a packet between St. John and Digby. On a day in October, while the vessel was approaching her wharf in Annapolis Basin, the main boom swinging around struck Capt. Betts and knocked him overboard. He was drowned before relief came to him. Mrs. Betts, his wife, was an eye witness to this sad event. Mrs. Betts subsequently married William Haines of St. John. There was no issue by either husband.

Having thus enumerated the children and descendants of George, the second son, we now devote some space to tracing those of William, the third and youngest son of the original settler of Digby Gut.

William, married Anne Burnham. Her father and mother were Loyalists and Episcopalians, but Anne became a zealous Presbyterian after marriage. Her father, Capt. Burnham, was subsequently drowned in Halifax harbour. The "Presbyterian Witness" for September 7th, 1884, says :

"At Bay View, Digby, on December the 13th, there passed away Anne, widow of the late William Turnbull. She was born on board the Brig "Anne"

on her passage between New York and Digby on June the 17th, 1789, and had thus passed the full age of 95 years. Ninety-eight years ago her husband, a fellow passenger of the Rev. James Macgregor, the first minister of Pictou County, landed from the Brig "Lily" in the city of Halifax. Settling at Digby Gut where the face of a minister was then seldom seen, he, on the Lord's Day, gathered the neighbors into his house, read and prayed with them, and catechised the children; a course in which he persevered after the preacher's visits were enjoyed, until the erection of the neat little church at Bay View. For more than half a century his house was the home of every visiting missionary. It is not difficult to know on which side of the house the chief labor of such entertaining rested, but Mrs. Turnbull was equal to the situation, showing that in reality she deemed it a privilege to show hospitality to the Lord's servants. From the good old times of Mr. Forsyth's annual visits downwards to the present, scores of ministers young and old; some belonging to the Provinces and a goodly number from the United States; some Episcopalians, some Methodists, some for days, weeks, and months, have found a happy home with Mr. and Mrs. Turnbull and family; so that few mothers in Israel who have passed away will be more gratefully and tenderly remembered.

The Reverend Anderson Rogers of Yarmouth, now of New Glasgow, promptly responded to the telegram and conducted the funeral services, improving the occasion by an appropriate address and devo-

tional service in the church beside which lie the remains of this venerable couple."

The children of William, and Anne Turnbull, were :

Elizabeth, born 1811, died 1894.

William Forsyth, the father of Charles, and Henry G. Turnbull, at present residing in Digby.

Jonathan, the father of Miss Hattie Turnbull, of Digby, at present residing with Mrs. J. L. Peters.

Isabella, who married her first cousin, George Turnbull, the parents of Eber Turnbull of Digby.

Rachel, who wedded William Fowler of Hampton, New Brunswick ; she died November 14th, 1840, aged 26 years.

Joshua, married a Miss Burns of Digby Neck.

Hannah Marie, who did not marry—obit.

George Andrew, born 1825, and married Janet Arnold of Sussex, a descendant of the first Episcopal Rector in New Brunswick.

Robert Philo, who is still living in the United States.

Ebenezer, who died in infancy.

Mary Anne, born 1831, and died in 1898.

These were the children of William, the third, and youngest, but by no means the least, son of him who came from Jedburg, Scotland. I wish to dwell at some length upon the private history of the eighth child, George Andrew Turnbull. He married, as I have said, a daughter of the late George N. Arnold, Esquire, of Sussex, New Brunswick. Janet was born on July the 10th, 1829, and united in

marriage to Mr. Turnbull on September the 23rd, 1856. Some four miles from the town of Digby they made their home and in this quiet, but very pleasantly situated place, they lived most happily together till the monster Death interrupted that union. Her death occurred on May the 17th, 1880. Bronchial consumption for many weary months held her in failing health, steadily undermining her constitution. The husband, now an old gentleman of 76, still survives, and is wonderfully active for a man of his years.

The children of George Andrew and Jane Turnbull were :

Norval, at present a sea captain and a member of the Presbyterian Church at Bay View, having united with the Church in October 1875.

Georgie A., was the first daughter. Upon her mother's death the full charge of the large family devolved upon her. Her hospitality to many of the ministers and students of the Presbyterian Church shall ever be remembered. In the work of the Church she was always actively engaged, leading the singing and devoting herself unsparingly to uphold the hands of the Pastor. This bright young lady fell a victim to the dread consumption and died on the 14th of September, 1896.

Maynard G., the second son, and third child, resides at Bay View with his wife and family. He married on October the 14th, 1895, a Miss Lizzie Welch of Westport, the ceremony being performed by the Reverend T. F. Fotheringham of St. John,

N. B. Both are members of the Church and take an interest in Church work.

The fourth child, Nelson Arnold, is agent for the Dominion Atlantic Railway at Digby.

Emma, the fifth child, now Mrs. Leander Ellis of Weymouth Falls, is still living.

Janet Maria, is the wife of the Reverend W. W. MacNairn, M. A., pastor of the Presbyterian congregation of Sheet Harbor. Besides these, there were two other children who both died in infancy.

I have thus traced the descendants of the original settlers of Digby Gut through several generations showing how by marriage, and intermarriage, the Turnbull stock has become so numerous, and enlarged. Some of them are Presbyterians; some Episcopalians, and some Methodists. Had the Church of Scotland established itself here many years ago and not been satisfied to regard Digby as a mission station, the Presbyterian Church would have been large, and wealthy, and strong in Digby town to-day.

#### AUTHORITIES.

- I. "The Colonial Presbyterian."
- II. The "Presbyterian Witness."
- III. The testimonies of George Andrew Turnbull, James Letteney; Margaret Hinxman.
- IV. Scattered records and notes made in Bibles and Auto-graph Albums by visiting clergymen.

## CHAPTER VI.

OTHER PRESBYTERIAN FAMILIES WHO WERE AMONG  
THE EARLY SETTLERS OF DIGBY.

Charles Hinxman, a clerk in the British army, embarked with his regiment in England and came out to oppose George Washington in the War of Independence. While in New Jersey he married, and being compelled to leave the United States, Mr. Hinxman came to Digby Gut early in 1784, and settled there.

His family consisted of two sons and three daughters. One of the sons was drowned while quite young. Cornelius, the other son, was born in July 1797, in the house at present occupied by Allen Adams—Bay View. As a young man Cornelius often stood sentry in the old fort at Bay View, the remains of which may still be seen. On May the 6th, 1830, he married Elizabeth Turnbull, daughter of George Turnbull.

From Edinburgh, Scotland, came a family of Baxters, staunch Presbyterians, who settled also at Bay View. With the Baxter family journeyed an old bachelor by name John Turner, who, erecting a house, lived by himself.

Reference has already been made to the coming of a family of Burnhams. One daughter, Ann, married William Turnbull. A brother, "Joshua" by name, erected a farm house on the road between

Point Prim and Culloden, and there raised a large family.

The Balcombs were another old family. Helen Gilmore, of Edinboro, a Presbyterian, was the mother of Sara Ann Balcomb, of Clementsport. Sara Ann married Jesse K. Warne of Digby Ridge. An essay on the genealogy of the Balcomb family, read by C. S. Balcomb of Boston, furnishes the following facts :

“ With the general exodus of pilgrims from England to the American shores immediately after 1620, there sailed from Southampton on the ship “ Confidence ” on April 24th, 1638, Walter Haynes and Peter Noyes. One of the Noyes girls married a son of Haynes and to this couple was born July 19th, 1644, a daughter, Elizabeth. The Balcombs of Digby were all descendants of that union.

Henry Balcomb was born in England and was a Congregationalist. His son Joseph was the grandfather of Silas Balcomb, who was among the original grantees of what is now Digby County.”

We now turn our attention to another family,— that of Adams. An old pensioner, Seacord, by name, was given a grant of land by the Government on the road running between Bay View and Culloden. Seacord lived by himself for many years, never having married. The reason of this, according to his statement, was that “ the girls he would like to marry would not have him ; and those who would have him the very Imp would not have.”

When Seacord, became an old man, and found it impossible to care for himself, he offered his property to James Adams, who was then living at the Joggin, provided Adams, would care for him till he died. James Adams, and his wife accepting the offer, took up their residence with Seacord, and there raised a family. It was necessary once a year for Seacord to come to Digby town to draw his pension. When the old man became too feeble to walk he was taken to Digby on an ox cart.

James Adams, married Eleanor Chute, and their children were—Austin, Robert, Maurice, John, Lydia, Lavinia, Susan, Matilda, Mary Ann, and Sarah.

Robert, the second son, was born August 4th, 1818. He married on February the 22nd, 1842, Augusta, daughter of Alex. Campbell. They first lived in Granville (Lower) but afterwards removed to Digby Gut where Mr. Adams built a house. Here he raised a family of nine children, seven of whom are living.

Mr. Robert Adams, was one of the first members of the Presbyterian Church, and it was largely through his efforts that a church was erected at Bay View. He died on November the 8th, 1899. The "Digby Weekly Courier" of November 10th, 1899, contained the following notice—"It becomes our duty to chronicle the death of another aged and respectable citizen, Mr. Robert Adams, who passed away at his home, Bay View, on Wednesday afternoon. A widow, three sons, four daughters, many grand-children, and

other relatives are left to mourn the loss of an affectionate relative and a highly respected citizen. The remains were interred in the Presbyterian burying ground at Bay View, the Reverend A. M. Hill, B. D., conducting the funeral services."

The cause of death was heart failure brought about from a shock received by falling into the cold, icy waters of the Bay of Fundy.

Mr. Adams, in his day was a "bold fisherman" and a most interesting man to talk to, his mind being filled with incidents and stories of the fishing life. His children were—

Henrietta, now Mrs. Handspiker of Broad Cove.

Sophronia, at present Mrs. James Hayden of Bay View.

Charles, who resides at Bay View, and is an elder in the Presbyterian Church.

Lydia, now Mrs. Pettes of the Light House road.  
Allan.

Alexander.

Eliza, married William Caines of Bay View.

A brother of the late Robert Adams, John by name, still lives on the old homestead at Bay View, although now well up in years.

Other settlers at an early date in these parts, were Bragg and his wife, who filled the position of light-house keeper until succeeded by William Ellis; also the Bents, Starks, Middletons and Burns.

In 1830 there came from Shelburne to Digby town a man by name William Loudette. He was a Scotchman and a school teacher. Arriving in Digby

with his family, he opened a school in a building occupying a space between Water Street, and the Alley, receiving a grant as a Grammar School teacher from the S. P. G. Society, of one hundred pounds sterling. The average attendance at the school was fifty. Many of the older residents of Digby received their first instructions from Mr. Loudette. Among them, I might mention, Judge Holdsworth, Judge of Probate; Captain Augustus Annand, W. B. Stewart, and many others.

Short, stout and portly, with a short aquiline nose and dignified air and manner, Loudette was a scholar and gentleman. To every visiting Presbyterian clergyman his house was thrown open and his hospitality was undoubted. Like us all, Loudette had his peculiarities, and one of these, was a sort of mania for clocks. When in 1856 the Reverend Professor John Currie of Halifax, visited Digby, he was the guest of Mr. Loudette. Dr. Currie remembers distinctly how that the house seemingly was alive with clocks, some of them striking the half hour, but all striking the hours in unison. And the strange part of it all was, that Loudette could not be induced to sell one of his numerous clocks. Loudette's family consisted of three sons and four daughters. One of the sons was drowned either by falling off the bridge part of the pier at Digby, or by going to sleep under the pier at low water, and while asleep being overflowed by the rising tide. One of his daughters married a member of the great iron and foundry firm of Eaton, Lovett and Wellington, of Albany, New

York, and was a perfect lady. She visited Digby about the year 1865. Mr. Loudette died somewhere about the year 1860, and his remains lie interred in the Episcopal burying-ground.

His admiration of Scotchmen, his own countrymen, is best attested to by the fact, that he would never chastise young Turnbull because he was Scotch.

Many anecdotes are related concerning Loudette. Profanity was strictly forbidden in his school. On one occasion a young Frenchman became very profane. Mr. Loudette called the scholar to account for his bad language, intimating that such was forbidden in his school. The young man replied that "he did not care whether it was or not." Whereupon Loudette seized the scholar in question, and a wild encounter ensued, in which, so report says, Loudette fared badly. Tinkering with old watches was a favorite pastime of this worthy Scotchman. One, Carr by name, entering the school one day handed Mr. Loudette a watch asking him if he could charge it (I presume he meant, repair the main spring). Loudette replied that "he would not only charge the watch but also Mr. Carr himself." Whereupon Carr made answer that he would prove an exception to the general rule of his countrymen, if he did not see a sure reward before performing any act."

In the early part of 1800 many Presbyterians settled in Digby town. There came about this time Judge Morton and his family. Mr. Morton filled the position of Judge and also collector of excise. The

Judge had two sons, one Dean, by name, who practised law in Digby, and John, a farmer.

About the year 1820, Clawson, a sea captain, came with his family and took up his residence in Digby. There came also a shoe-maker by name MacIntosh; also John Wright, father of Captain James and William Wright.

In 1840 James Annand, the father of Captain Augustus Annand, came from Musquodoboit to Digby, filling the position of collector of customs till his death in 1857.

All these families were originally Presbyterians.

Over in the direction of Broad Cove and Culloden settled many Scotch families such as the Carrs, Urquharts, MacKays, Ross', and the MacLeans who were so broad in their speech that they could scarcely be understood; while in Bear River the Tupper, Maxwells and Bents were the representative Scotch families.

#### AUTHORITIES.

- I. The Hinxman family Bible.
- II. The story of the life of Robert Adams told to the writer by himself shortly before death.
- III. The "Digby Weekly Courier."

## CHAPTER VII.

A SHORT CHAPTER CONCERNING MORE EARLY  
SETTLERS.

In 1791 there settled on the Light House road Colonel David Fanning, Colonel of the Chatham and Randolph County militia in North Carolina. He came from the United States to Digby in company with Major Timpany, and Colonel Williams, being driven thither for his loyalty to Britain. Colonel Fanning was in many ways a remarkable man.

In the year 1781, under an appointment from Major Henry Craig, then commanding the British troops in North Carolina, Fanning embodied one thousand men and with them performed singular service to the British Government. During the course of the War he was twice severely wounded; fourteen times taken prisoner. and tried for his life by the Rebels. In a journal kept by Fanning during the War and which the writer had the pleasure of reading, he tells of many of his adventures and escapes. On one occasion, being captured by the enemy, he was chained and ironed in a room thirty feet square and forty-five feet from the ground; the snow beating in through the roof with four grates open day and night. Remaining in this position eleven days, on the night of the twelfth day he got rid of the chains, and taking a bar out of the window he pried one of the planks out of the floor of the prison, and from thence went down stairs and made his escape.

"I was with a small party at Deep River," writes Fanning, "where I took two rebel officers prisoners and several soldiers. I then directed my march to the place where I left Col. Pyles and came within a little distance of the Dragoons that had cut him up. The day on which Lord Cornwallis defeated General Greene at Guilford, I was surprised by a Capt. Duck with a company of Rebels. "We found that they had separated and gone to their respective homes. Meeting one of the Rebels I fired at him wounding him in the neck. After that we proceeded to Dixon's Mills, Cane Creek, where Lord Cornwallis was encamped with the British troops." The following is self explanatory.

*"By James Henry Craig, Esquire, Major in His Majesty's 62nd Regiment, commanding a detachment of King's Troops in North Carolina.*

To David Fanning, Esquire :

These are to appoint you to be Colonel of the Loyal Militia of Randolph and Chatham counties ; who are directed to obey you as such in all lawful commands whatsoever ; and you are authorised to grant commissions to the necessary persons of known attachment to His Majesty's Person and Government to act as Captains and subalterns to the different companies of militia aforesaid. As Colonel, you are hereby fully empowered to assemble the militia and lead them against any party of rebels or others, the King's enemies. as often as necessary to compel all persons to join you, and to seize and disarm and to

detain in confinement all Rebels or others acting against His Majesty's Government, and to do all other acts becoming a King's Officer and good subject.

Given at Wilmington on this 5th of July, 1781.

(Signed) T. H. CRAIG,

*Major Commanding the King's Troops.*

After the conclusion of the War Colonel Fanning settled in Digby. His training in war, however, was not entirely forgotten, for he would shoot without mercy all the neighbours' hens that trespassed on his territory. Such a good shot was he, that he was known to fire at hens when surrounded by children.

Mr. Fanning died in Digby and was buried in Trinity Church-yard. He has three grand-daughters living at present in Digby—Mrs. George Turnbull, (since deceased) Mrs. Trask and Mrs. Marshall.

Captain Domve Ditmars of Long Island, New York, was, before the Revolution, an active ensign in the militia of that Island. He came, however, to Digby County where his descendants are still to be found.

The Everett's, found in Digby County, came from Long Island, New York. James Everett settled at Digby in 1783 and died in 1799, leaving issue.

Along Digby Neck settled a Morehouse family, while in the DeLong settlement, Digby, and elsewhere are to be found the Ramsons and Rhoddys.

In 1805 a bounty was offered for newly cleared land in the township of Clements. Among those competing for the prize were Charles Caseworth and Henry Tromper, of Digby town.

#### AUTHORITIES.

- I. A manuscript obtained by the writer, never before published, entitled "The Journal of Colonel David Fanning, during the late War in America from the year 1775 until 1783."

---

### CHAPTER VIII.

#### EARLY WORSHIP AMONG THE PRESBYTERIANS.—AN ACCOUNT OF THE VISITS OF FORSYTH, HENRY, SOMMERVILLE, AND STRUTHERS; MARTIN AND SPROTT.

During the lifetime of the original settler of Digby Gut—William Turnbull—no Presbyterian minister visited the place, although the Reverend James MacGregor, the first minister of Pictou County, had been a fellow passenger with him from Scotland. However, the worship of God was not neglected on the Lord's Day. His youngest son, William, gathering the neighbors into his own house on the Sabbath day, would, assisted by his brother Robert, conduct public worship. Every Sunday morning, rain or shine, they would meet together. The service would be opened by the singing of a psalm; prayers were offered, and the Scriptures read; then William would read one of Blair's sermons to the congrega-

tion, which usually numbered forty-five. Following this service the children were catechised by Robert, who was also a pious man.

Many derived good from the prayers and teaching of these Godly men. Among those who were regular attendants at these house services we note such names as John Letteney, and family, Robert, and Baxter Condon, Cornelius Hinxman and family, James Betts, Robert Adams, James Adams, Joshua Burnham, Carr, Ross, Urquhart, MacIntosh, Sinclair and many others.

The first Presbyterian clergyman to visit Digby Gut and preach was the Rev. William Forsyth, of the Church of Scotland, who came from Ecclefechan, Scotland, and commenced to labour in Cornwallis about 1800. As long as health and strength permitted he was accustomed to make annual visits to Digby preaching and dispensing the Sacrament. Mr. Forsyth would always ride down the Granville shore of Annapolis Basin, and while he himself was ferried across Digby Gut, his poor horse had to swim.

His first visit to Digby was about the year 1805 when he preached in the house of William Turnbull and baptised many children. Forsyth was a thin, small man, but very active. His ability was recognized. It appears that he taught a class of students, and on one occasion he went with his scholars to hear a young minister preach. The minister was surprised to see the scholarly Forsyth among his hearers. He called upon Forsyth to offer prayer, whereupon this answer was made by Forsyth—"In

my country he who begins a task generally must finish it without assistance." Mr. Forsyth took notes of the sermon and at its conclusion, rising from his seat, he turned to the congregation and said, "I hold in my hand the sermon we have heard; what will any of you give for it; I'd sell it cheap."

Mr. Forsyth for a season was subject to mental derangement, so that though loved and revered by members of his own flock, he became utterly unequal to the demands of the pastorate. This venerable minister died at Cornwallis on Sabbath, the 9th August, 1840.

Previous to the death of Mr. Forsyth, but subsequent to his last visits to Digby Gut, the Reverend George Struthers visited the Presbyterians of Digby town and dispensed the Sacrament. Mr. Struthers was the son-in-law of Forsyth, and succeeded him as pastor of the Cornwallis congregation.

During the summer of 1834 the Revd. David Henry spent two months preaching to the Presbyterians throughout Digby County. Mr. Henry was sent out by the "Glasgow Colonial Society" to labor in Nova Scotia. He arrived at Halifax in 1833, having been ordained by the Presbytery of Aberdeen. Shortly after his arrival he began a series of journeys through Yarmouth, Digby and Annapolis.

An attempt was made by the Digby Presbyterians to call Mr. Henry and money was actually subscribed for his support, but while at Digby Gut he became seriously ill. From this illness he never completely recovered, but his health failing, he was compelled

to relinquish his work and return to Scotland, where, going into decline, he passed away.

In the eighth annual report of the "Glasgow Colonial Society" we read the following: "The Reverend David Henry in his report pointed out Annapolis and Digby as suitable stations for a missionary. The Presbyterians are numerous. They are desirous of doing something to revive the Presbyterian interest, and expressed their willingness to unite for the purpose of supporting a minister.

An active, zealous and faithful minister would do much to promote the interests of religion in the place and preserve the remaining attachment of the Presbyterian remnant and obtain accessions to its numbers. Were a regular ministry established the number would doubtless increase.

At present these places afford a pleasant, extensive and grateful field of missionary labors, as the chief and perhaps the only means of organizing them in such a manner as to prepare them for procuring if possible the labors of a settled minister."

From the years 1840 to 1870 the Reverend William Sommerville was a frequent visitor to Digby Gut. Mr. Sommerville was born at Rathfriland, Ireland. When but nineteen he took the degree of M. A. at the University of Glasgow. The Southern Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Ireland licensed him to preach, and in 1831 ordained him as "Missionary to the Colonies."

After preaching for some time in New Brunswick, Mr. Sommerville was removed to Horton in May

1833, and began a pastorate which closed only with his death. I have been told that the Church at Grand Pre, begun in 1812 and completed in 1820 and now frequently pointed out to confiding tourists, as a relic of Acadian times, was the scene of his labours.

Mr. Forsyth had passed his three score years and ten, so that when Sommerville was asked by the Presbyterians of Horton to minister to them for a year, the advent of a young and vigorous man into the country was, in the interests of Presbyterianism, greatly needed.

“Possessed of a classical and scientific education,” says a writer, “in which he was the peer of any man in the Province, and with a heart full of zeal for the truth of God’s Word, he single-handed and alone, began at once to raise his voice against erroneous doctrines, which, for nearly half a century had been gaining ground under the teaching of the celebrated Henry Alline.”

His life was one of turmoil and conflict. His visits to Digby are remembered to this day. The children were always afraid of him, his catechising being of the severest nature.

Sommerville hated erroneous teachings, and to his dying day his duty to attack a doctrine which he believed to be contrary to the Divine Word was one which he never avoided. This fact militated somewhat against the growth of Presbyterianism in the Western Counties, for the position assumed by him was too far in advance to be reached by the whole rank and file of the army.

I have heard many little anecdotes of Sommersville which are so characteristic of the man that I cannot refrain from telling them. Being once asked for his opinion on the matter of Church union he said, "If we are in error show us that error; if we are right then unite with us."

The disruption of the Reformed Church of Scotland brought forth this remark from him, "As a friend of union I rejoice at the separation. It is a church in which for years there has been no union."

On one occasion he was invited to preach in Halifax. Upon his refusal to use "Watt's Psalms" at the service, he was excluded from the pulpit. Asked for data from which to write a biographical sketch of his life, he responded thus, "William Sommersville was born July 1st, 1800. He died———. A sinner saved by grace."

One of the last requests made shortly before his death was that his remains might be buried without any religious service. In the "Year Book" of 1879 there may be found an obituary notice of Mr. Sommersville which says, among other things, "He belonged to the strictest sect of the Covenanters. The man who differed from him and was manly enough to defend his position was a man whom he respected; but he despised the man who differed and who, for the sake of peace, would not stand up for his differences. His pen was seldom at rest; sometimes in the newspapers; sometimes in a pamphlet; sometimes in a bound volume.

A sound scholar and apt in illustration, his removal leaves a great gap, for he was a leader of men and one of the pioneers of the Province. Of him it may be said as Morton said of Knox, that "he never feared the face of man."

Two others of these early visitors to Digby Gut remain to be mentioned—these are the Reverend John Martin, and the Reverend John Sprott.

The Reverend John Martin was one of four ministers of the Church of Scotland who came to Nova Scotia during the years 1817-1825. Licensed by the Presbytery of Edinburgh, and ordained by the Presbytery of Hamilton; Mr. Martin came to Halifax in the year 1821 to assume the pastoral charge of St. Andrew's church in that city. He remained pastor of this congregation till the year 1856. Mr. Martin delighted in visiting destitute localities and fostering new congregations. It was for this reason that he visited occasionally the Presbyterians of Digby, preaching for them and dispensing the Sacrament.

When in 1856, he retired from the pastorate of St. Andrew's Church, the Colonial committee of the Church of Scotland offered him the position of Superintendent of Missions, the duties of which office he discharged until within a few years of his death. Croil, in his "Story of the Kirk," speaks of Mr. Martin as follows: "His professional activity was great. Undeterred by any distance of place, or by any inconvenience of time, he was incessantly employed about his Great Father's business. Of few men since the days of the chiefest apostle could it

more truly be said than of John Martin, that he was "instant in season ; out of season."

During the years 1846-1858 the Reverend John Sprott made frequent journeys through Digby, baptising many children, preaching, and dispensing the Sacrament. Mr. Sprott was a native of Stonykirk, Wigtonshire, Scotland, and having been educated at Edinburgh, was licensed to preach in 1809, in connection with the Relief Church. The congregation of Musquodoboit called him to be their pastor in 1825. After twenty years labour here he resigned. The remainder of his life was spent on his farm at Middle Musquodoboit.

It was subsequent to the year 1846 that Mr. Sprott's visits to Digby commenced, and they are still remembered by the older inhabitants. It was his custom to arrive about Friday and begin at once a thorough visitation of families. This he always did in his bare feet, fearing lest by wearing boots or socks his feet would become sore. Order, during worship, he insisted upon. On one occasion while engaged in delivering a sermon, Mr. Sprott saw a young girl in the congregation gazing out of a window ; whereupon he ceased preaching and devoted the remaining time to scolding severely the young girl, calling her by name and expressing surprise at her evident lack of reverence.

It was said that by the "Increase of lands and death of women Mr. Sprott became wealthy." His last visit to Digby was paid in the year 1859, after he had attained his seventieth birth-day. All admired

him for his great energy, his independence, and zeal. His death occurred in September, 1869.

These were the men who, for the first half of the century, ministered to the spiritual wants of the people in this community. There being no place of worship, service was held by them in an old house which stands at Bay View. Here the Sacrament was dispensed, and here the Ordinance of Baptism was administered. The sermons preached then exceeded in length the discourses of to-day. The mothers made a practice of taking with them to service little cakes and bottles of milk that they might feed their children when they became hungry, and weary, and worn out.

It was the custom of Mr. Forsyth to pray for thirty minutes; a rule from which he would not depart, but followed faithfully. Adjoining the room in which public worship was conducted, there was a dark closet. Into this dungeon many a child was thrust for bad behaviour, until the service was concluded and the benediction had been pronounced.

Thus it was that God was worshipped; for these early settlers believed the Scriptures which told them that "God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit, and in truth."

#### AUTHORITIES.

- I. Copies of the "Berwick Register."
- II. Gregg's "History of Presbyterianism."
- III. Testimonies of the older men and women of Bay View.

## CHAPTER IX.

VISIT OF THE REVEREND JOHN CURRIE, D. D., AND  
THE REVEREND MR. GOODFELLOW—AN APPEAL  
MADE TO THE CHURCH TO SEND MINISTERS  
TO ANNAPOLIS AND DIGBY.

In November, 1856, the Reverend John Currie, now professor of Old Testament Exegesis in the Presbyterian College, Halifax, preached in Digby town and Gut. While in Digby Dr. Currie was the guest of Mr. Loudette to whom reference has already been made. The following entry was found in a note book by Dr. Currie :

“ November the 6th, 1856, went to Digby, and on Sunday the 9th, preached in the morning at Digby Gut to an audience of forty-five from the text 1st Timothy 1-15, “ This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners ; of whom I am chief.” In the evening preached in the Baptist Church, Digby town, from John xiv, 1-4. On that part of the pulpit facing the congregation this motto was inscribed, “ Lord help me to preach to this degenerate people.’ ”

Four years previous to the visit of Dr. Currie the Reverend George Christie of St. John's Church, Yarmouth, dispensed the Sacrament and baptised Roland, the youngest child of Cornelius Hinxman, November the 8th, 1852. Mr. Christie made many journeys to Digby Gut subsequently to this date,

always driving from Yarmouth, there being no railroad.

Reverend Mr. Goodfellow spent the greater part of a summer prior to the year 1860 in Digby. Mr. Goodfellow was in poor health, and with his wife and child came to the shores of the Bay of Fundy seeking benefit. It was the practice of his little child when in church, to stray up and climb to a seat in the pulpit with her father. She would tolerate no interference, for this seemed to be her peculiar privilege.

The first Presbyterian congregation was organized at Annapolis in 1858. A church was soon commenced which was finished for worship about 1862. At a meeting of the Presbytery of Halifax, held at Pictou during the Synodical session, two calls were placed in the hands of Mr. James A. Murray, one from the congregation of Newport, the other from the congregation of Annapolis. Mr. Murray intimated to the presbytery the great difficulty which he experienced in coming to a decision. Both congregations were anxious for a settlement. That of Annapolis was new, untried, weak and isolated; but these very circumstances might render a disappointment prejudicial to their interests. In these circumstances Mr. Murray solicited from the Presbytery a statement of their views for his assistance in arriving at a decision. On re-assembling Mr. Murray intimated his acceptance of the Annapolis call.

The Presbytery having met at Windsor on the 14th and 15th, heard all Mr. Murray's trials for ordination, consisting of a lecture on Romans viii, 1-4.

a popular sermon, an exercise, and part of the book of Jonah in Hebrew.

On Sabbath, the 19th, the Presbytery proceeded to the ordination. The Wesleyan minister and steward had come forward with much Christian kindness and courtesy and placed their chapel at the disposal of the Presbytery. The Reverend P. G. MacGregor preached a discourse on the work of the ministry from Nehemiah vi. 3. The Reverend John L. Murray recited the steps; put the formula of questions to Mr. Murray, and these being answered proceeded to offer prayer during which Mr. Murray was ordained with the "laying on of the hands of the Presbytery." The whole service was solemn, suitable and impressive. All seemed to feel the greatness of the ministerial work and the need of the Spirit's gracious presence with pastor and people, that the union formed might serve its proper end. The Reverend Mr. Smallwood offered the closing prayer and fervently invoked the Divine Blessing on the whole services of the day and on the young brother, whom he and his people welcomed, as a fellow laborer in the Lord's work. Thus was the first Presbyterian pastor settled in Annapolis in 1857.

Mr. Murray visited Digby quite often during his pastorate in Annapolis. An appeal was sent to the Synod in 1860 calling upon the United Church to give special attention to Digby County. It points out that around Annapolis are the highly important stations of Granville, Digby, Digby Neck, and Pratt's Settlement. The Presbyterians have been sadly

neglected until very recently. From the time of the American Revolution till about two years ago they have been as sheep without a shepherd as far as pastoral care is concerned. No doubt the objection will be urged—whence are the supplies to come? Let this not be a stumbling block. If we have faith even as a grain of mustard seed we shall in the name and by the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ say to that mountain great though it appears in the way—"Be thou rooted out, removed, and cast into the depths of the sea." We hope the Synod will not separate without giving some attention to this matter. Home Missions is one of the most important questions of the day. It ought to receive special regard.

At a meeting of the Halifax Presbytery held on August the 4th, 1861, a call from the congregation of Annapolis to the Reverend H. D. Steele was read. A report from the Reverend P. G. MacGregor giving an account of the fulfilment of his appointment to Annapolis and Digby was also read. D. H. McKinnon, Probationer, was appointed to supply Annapolis and Digby for two Sabbaths.

A religious census of Digby County taken in November, 1861, gives the total population as being 14,751; of these 47 belonged to the Church of Scotland, and 159 to the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces.

#### AUTHORITIES.

- I. Notes from his Diary kindly given to the writer by Revd. Prof. John Currie, D. D.
- II. "Presbyterian Witness."

## CHAPTER X.

THE COMING OF THE FIRST STUDENT MISSIONARIES  
TO BAY VIEW, DIGBY CO.

The Reverend A. B. Dickie of Milford, Hants County, then a student of Theology in the College at Halifax, was the first student to labour in Digby County. This was in the summer of 1868. Mr. Dickie preached in a little church in Digby town, occupied alternately by Baptists and Presbyterians (a union church); and at Bay View in the house of Father Turnbull, who was living when he visited the field.

In a report submitted to the Presbytery of Halifax and published in the "Home and Foreign Record" for January 1869, Mr. Dickie remarks, "the first community that I visited was Hillsborough. This settlement is situated about 16 miles from Annapolis; is a rapidly growing village, and contains about two thousand inhabitants. The Baptists and Methodists are the predominant bodies among them; yet there are a large number of deluded fanatics called Second Adventists. This people are busily engaged propagating their erroneous views; endeavouring to make proselytes by gross interpretations of Scripture. There are eight persons here in full communion with our church; about twenty adherents, and a number who are favourably disposed towards us.

At Digby we have about six adherents who apparently manifest but little zeal on behalf of our

cause. There are quite a number here, however, who were once Presbyterians but have gone out from among us in consequence of receiving no supply: Intemperance abounds to an alarming extent, and the cause of religion seems dull and languid.

At Digby Gut—five miles distant from Digby—the prospect is, in many ways, more promising and encouraging. At one time the communion roll here numbered forty, which, owing to deaths and removals dwindled down to two, and has since been increased to four by the accession of two church members from the Reverend Neil McKay's congregation. Several attempts were made a number of years ago to obtain a stated supply of preaching. Subscription papers were drawn up and appeals made to Presbytery, but their applications were never granted. Though some have grown luke-warm in the cause, and others have gone out from among us, yet there are about thirty adherents still.

I also visited St. Mary's Bay and Weymouth. At the former locality I found two communicants, and at the latter one or two adherents. Many are almost wholly ignorant of the government, discipline and doctrine of our Church; whilst others have always heard us spoken of in reproachful terms and were led to believe that as a Church we would soon cease to have an existence."

In the summer of 1869, Mr. Jacob Layton, Probationer, was appointed to labour in Digby among the Presbyterians, and through his earnest efforts the movement was set on foot of erecting a church at

Digby Gut. The Reverend Jacob Layton, for many years pastor of the Elmsdale congregation, at present ministers to the good people of Cove Head, P. E. I.

Mr. J. H. Chase, now the Rev. J. H. Chase, M. A. formerly of Onslow, Colchester County, laboured as a student catechist in Digby in succession to Mr. Layton in the summer of 1870.

Mr. Chase was followed by A. F. Thompson, so long pastor at Bathurst, N. B., and during the summer of 1872 the Reverend J. A. Cairns, M. A., of Barney's River, Pictou County, labored as a student here. Mr. Cairns married Miss Alice Waters of Digby, and the marriage ceremony was performed at the church at Bay View on June the 20th, 1882, by the Reverend John B. Logan of Kentville. This was the first, and thus far, the only marriage ceremony performed in the church at Digby Gut.

Mr. Thomas Christie also ministered to the people here. All these gentlemen held service in the "Old Turnbull House," for as yet a place for the worship of God had not been erected. Mr. Christie, I believe, a son of the Reverend George Christie of Yarmouth, subsequently proceeded to Trinidad as a missionary of our Church, where, succumbing to fever, he died.

#### AUTHORITIES.

- I. The writer is much indebted to the Rev. A. B. Dickie of Milford for information contained in this chapter.
- II. "Home and Foreign Record" for the years 1869-1870.

## CHAPTER XI.

THE BUILDING, OPENING AND DEDICATION OF THE  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN DIGBY COUNTY.

In the previous Chapter I stated that under Mr. Layton the movement was set on foot of erecting a Church. Mr. Layton often exhorted the people from the words of Haggai 1, 7-8, "Thus saith the Lord of Hosts; consider your ways. Go up to the mountain and bring wood and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the Lord." The people were told that help would be given them in the work. At length the site was given, and the matter being brought before the Halifax Presbytery, it was agreed to ask each congregation within the bounds to give a collection to aid them.

The Reverend Mr. Gordon of Bridgetown, took an active interest in the work, sending not only money, but also shingles for the roof; and flooring and sheathing. Messrs. Thos. Hinxman, Jno. Middleton, Robt. Adams and George Turnbull proceeded into the woods to cut the timber for the frame. This was drawn to Daley's mill on the Mount Pleasant road, and there the frame was sawn. After the frame had been placed in position a monster tea-meeting was held at Bay View, to secure funds for carrying on the work. Over one hundred dollars was secured by this means, and together with many private subscriptions, an amount sufficient to finish

the Church free of debt was secured. One gentleman, who had subscribed twenty dollars, on being asked for it said he would not pay, for said he, "I never thought that the church would be built, and that was why I put my name down for twenty dollars."

The church is a neat little structure, 33 by 24, erected on a pretty spot, the gift of Mr. George Turnbull. The house is arched and corniced, windows Gothic, pews tastefully painted, and pulpit cushioned. From 120 to 150 persons can be comfortably accommodated.

Public worship was conducted for the first time in the church on Sunday, July 20th, 1873, when every pew was filled and the aisle as well. In the absence of the Reverend D. Gordon, Mr. James Robertson, who was laboring at the time in the little congregation, read select portions of the Scriptures and a sermon was preached by the Reverend P. G. MacGregor on the words "My house shall be called an house of prayer of all nations." In the afternoon the Lord's Supper was dispensed and thirty persons, some from Hillsburg, some from Digby, joined in the Sacred Festival.

During both services the church was filled to overflowing by a devout people, who were deeply interested and visibly impressed. The Reverend Mr. McCarthy, Wesleyan, who addressed the people in the afternoon, remarked that this was a day never to be forgotten by himself or by the people. The Bible, handsomely bound and every way most suit-

able, which was used, was a gift from John Boyde Esquire, of St. John, to whom the congregation were much indebted.

Mr. James Robertson continued his work in Bay View after the opening and occupancy of the church, as narrated above, until the month of September, when he returned to Princeton Theological Seminary.

On the first Sabbath of May, 1874, Mr. D. C. MacIntyre, of the Union Theological Seminary, New York, by appointment of the Halifax Presbytery, commenced his work for the season, giving a portion of his time to Bear River.

Reverend D. S. Gordon of Bridgetown, on the first Sunday of September, dispensed the Lord's Supper at Bay View, which was noted as a time of refreshing. Mr. MacIntyre in his report of his summer's work recommended, 1st. That some provision should be made for a supply in winter. 2nd. That the people in Hillsburg should be assisted in the erection of a small church. The last recommendation was followed and acted upon, and a small church was erected in Bear River chiefly through the efforts of Mr. Eliakim Tupper and Dr. Maxwell. But the cause did not prosper and so the church was sold and demolished. The site is at present occupied by a school house.

#### AUTHORITIES.

Articles written from time to time by the late Revd. Dr. P. G. MacGregor.

## CHAPTER XII.

A SUMMARY OF THE STUDENT CATECHISTS WHO HAVE  
LABOURED IN DIGBY, AND THE WORK DONE  
BY THEM.

“When one has a story to tell,” says Harriet Beecher Stowe, “one is always puzzled which end of it to begin at. You have a whole corps of people to introduce that you know and your reader does not, and one thing so presupposes another, that whichever way you turn your patch-work, the figures still seem ill-arranged.” However, let us proceed to the summer of 1875 and we find the stations of Bay View and Bear River being supplied in that year by Mr. G. S. Burroughs of the class of '77, Princeton Theological Seminary. Mr. Burroughs preached each Sabbath at Bay View in the morning, and at Bear River in the afternoon.

A Sabbath School was organized and continued in active operation even after the departure of the catechist. On Wednesday evening a combined lecture and prayer meeting was held, while Friday evening was devoted to social meetings from house to house. Mr. Burroughs delivered a lecture in Digby town on “Egypt and the Holy Land,” the proceeds of which furnished the church with lights. Time was given to the visitation of all who attended the services. Some attention was paid to the people of Broad Cove, who should not be overlooked by

students. The following was the list of Church members at Bay View at that time, May 1875 :

Mrs. Wm. Turnbull, deceased.  
 Miss E. Turnbull, “  
 Mrs. H. Turnbull, “  
 Miss M. Turnbull, “  
 G. A. Turnbull.  
 Mrs. G. A. Turnbull, deceased.  
 Mrs. C. Hinxman, “  
 Miss M. Hinxman.  
 Mrs. R. Adams.  
 Mrs. C. Adams, deceased.  
 J. Turnbull.  
 Mrs. E. Turnbull.

In August, 1875, the Reverend Mr. Johnson visited the field and baptised the following :

Adults—Charles Adams, Allan Adams.

Infants—Lewis Addison McRae, Janet Maria Turnbull—now Reverend W. W. McNairn's wife, Charles Burroughs Adams, now of St. John, New Brunswick, Frederick Adams, William Layton Hinxman, of Hillsburg, Sarah Maud Hinxman of Hillsburg.

At the same time the following united with the Church :—Messrs. Charles Hinxman, Robert Adams, Allan Adams, Norval Turnbull, Maynard Turnbull, Mrs. Allan Adams, and Miss Georgie Turnbull. Thus the total number of communicants in the fall of 1875 was twenty.

Coming now to the summer of 1876, we find Digby town added to Bay View and Bear River as a

preaching station. E. N. Condit of Princeton Theological Seminary occupied these stations. Regular preaching services were conducted every Sabbath morning and afternoon at Bay View and Digby. The services at Bear River were somewhat interrupted on account of the unfinished state of the chapel there. In Digby town the regular preaching services were held in the Town Hall.

Five services were held at Bear River and a few families visited. The majority of the congregations at these places were composed of persons from other churches. This fact restricted family visitation.

The communion service was celebrated at Bay View church on Sabbath, August 6th, by the Reverend Alexander Falconer, D. D., now of Pictou, N. S.

Five persons were received on profession of their faith :—

Mrs. Sarah Turnbull of Bear River.  
 Mrs. Charles Hinxman, “ “  
 Mrs. Rachael Hinxman, “ “  
 Miss Hattie Turnbull of Bay View.  
 Miss Eliza Adams, “ “

Miss Eliza Adams was baptised. She is now Mrs. William Caines of Bay View:

Mr. John Grierson, for so many years the field secretary of the Provincial S. S. Association, labored here during the summer of the year 1877. He arrived on the third Sabbath of May and continued his work until the second Sabbath of August.

The Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper were dispensed on July 14th, 1877, by the Reverend

John Logan of Kentville. At that time Miss Sarah Stark was received upon a profession of faith. Two infants were baptised: Percy Duncan McRae, and Laurie Ashby Adams.

During the autumn of the same year, 1877, the same stations were supplied by Andrew Gray. His work covered two months extending from the first Sabbath of September to the last Sabbath of October.

Mr. A. Russell Stevenson, of the class of '80, Union Theological Seminary, was the laborer in these parts during 1878. He preached at both Bear River and Bay View.

The Sacraments were dispensed on July 14th by the Reverend David Neish,\* at that time of Upper Canard. Mr. Neish subsequently left the Presbyterian Church and became a minister of the Episcopal Church. Four persons were received upon profession of faith: Dr. and Mrs. Archibald Maxwell of Bear River, Mrs. Annie Champier and Mrs. Alexander Adams. There were baptized—Adult, Mr. Alexander Adams. Infants, Minnie Gordon Maxwell, George Ernest Hinzman.

For three Sabbaths, during the absence of the Methodist minister in Bear River, the Presbyterian service was conducted in their church.

Mr. Daniel MacGregor, according to the appointment of the Halifax Presbytery, supplied the station of Digby for the two last Sabbaths of August, 1879. The weather being fine the congregations were large. He found the people very anxious to receive a more

---

\* Mr. Neish has recently died.

regular supply. He had many meetings during the week and visited families in both the stations.

F. A. Gaylord, of the class of '81, Union Theological Seminary, New York, spent the summer of 1880 at Digby. Two evenings during the summer the catechist, assisted by his two brothers, gave a musical and literary entertainment, the proceeds of which were devoted to the schemes of the church. Mr. Gaylord, although a great sufferer from malaria, yet was a good pastor, calling upon twenty different families and visiting over two hundred separate individuals. Much of his time was spent in personal conversation with people in the shop, in the field, and on the street.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered on Sunday, August 22nd, by the Reverend W. H. Gray of Annapolis, at which time Miss Cerietta Walker was baptised and nine persons united with the Church—viz., Mr. and Mrs. Malcom MacKinnon, Mr. Donald McInnes, Nelson Turnbull, Christopher Stark, Miss Cerietta Walker, Miss Emma Turnbull, now Mrs. Ellis of Weymouth Falls, Miss Jeanie Stark and Miss Alice Waters, now the wife of the Reverend J. A. Cairns of Barney's River, Pictou County. A Sabbath School was conducted for six Sabbaths at which the average attendance was sixteen. Although the catechist made many appeals the number who responded was not large, partly because there were not many children to attend, and partly because of the disinclination of the parents to send them.

Charles D. MacLaren of the Theological Collège, Halifax, class of '82, was a laborer in these parts during a portion of the year 1881. Mr. McLaren extended his labours to Digby Neck, preaching at Rossway and Centreville. He visited in all forty-seven families. Of this number only about twenty were Presbyterian families. He did not visit as much as some of the people would like him to have done and they told him so, but I feel sure that Mr. McLaren thought none the less of them for that.

The Reverend P. G. MacGregor, D. D., visited this field in the month of July, giving services in the three stations, dispensing the Lord's supper at Bay View and the Sacrament of Baptism in Digby.

During this summer also, the Reverend D. J. MacIntyre, M. A., (of Beauville, Ontario), who had laboured as a catechist in this field, preached on Sabbath, September 4th.

On the 28th of November of the same year, the Reverend A. B. Dickie dispensed the Sacrament at Bay View. Mr. Charles Bent was admitted for the first time and also received baptism.

During the summer of '82 the stations of Bay View, Digby, Bear River and Bridgetown were supplied by C. A. R. Janvier, of the class of '84, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, N. J. From Digby as his headquarters he went out to the other three stations, giving one Sunday to the Digby circuit and the next to Bridgetown. On the Sabbath at Digby Mr. Janvier would preach in the morning at the Gut, in the afternoon at the Temperance Hall

in Digby Town, and in the evening at Bear River, whenever such a service could be arranged. The Presbyterians had become so few in the latter place that it was deemed inexpedient to attempt to hold services at the same time with those of other denominations, so that service was only held when the catechist could take advantage of a vacant pulpit in the Baptist or Methodist churches.

A Sunday School was also maintained at Bay View and Bridgetown, Mr. McRae taking charge at Bay View, and Mr. Falconer at Bridgetown. In addition to these services a Wednesday evening meeting was held every week in the summer. This sometimes took the form of a Bible reading in which the audience took part; sometimes of an expository talk, and once a month a lecture on Foreign Missions. The catechist visited all the families in the Bay View section, and all the Presbyterians in Digby, Bear River, and Bridgetown. In all, two hundred and fifty visits were made.

On Sunday, September 3rd, the Reverend Ebenezer McNab officiated according to appointment, at the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The following adults were baptised and received into the Church on profession of their faith—Mr. and Mrs. Elkanah Bent, Miss Henrietta Bent. The Baptisms were—Alexander Douglas Caines, Frank Ernest Adams, Ellenor Adams, Lizzie Mabel Bent, and Bertha Bent.

The Right Reverend Dr. Cattell, President of LaFayette College, Pennsylvania, preached on two consecutive Sabbath afternoons for Mr. Janvier in Digby.

These stations also received a visit from the Reverend Anderson Rogers of St. John's Church, Yarmouth, (now of United Church, New Glasgow) on Sabbath, December 3rd, 1882.

On the 31st of December of the same year, Geo. S. Allen, a student at Pine Hill College, preached at Bay View.

G. B. F. Hallock of the class of '85, Princeton Theological Seminary, was the labourer here during the summer of 1883. A meeting was held from house to house on Monday evenings for the selection and practice of lines for Sunday ; besides social pleasures and the singing of songs. During this summer the church at Bay View was painted, the money being provided by a Miss Rankin and Wm. E. Anderson, Esq., both visitors to Digby. A valuable gift of one hundred and four volumes and sixteen singing books was also received from the Mount Lucas Sabbath School of Princeton, New Jersey. The pulpit was newly upholstered and the desk cushions covered, the expense of the work being born by Mrs. Dr. Janvier of New York City.

The Reverend James Robinson, pastor of the Fourth Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, who had laboured as a catechist at Bay View ten years previous, preached to large congregations on Sunday, August 12th, 1883.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was again dispensed by the Rev. P. G. MacGregor, D. D., on Sept. 16th, 1883.

At that time Miss Alice B. Hawkesworth (now Mrs. J. Loran Peters of Digby) ; Miss Elmina Stark,

Mrs. Chas. Bent, Mr. George D. Turnbull, and Stillman Adams, were received into the Church. The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Malcom MacKinnon—John Edward Wasell MacKinnon—was baptised.

During the summer of 1884, Mr. Hallock also labored as catechist. He was relieved for two Sabbaths by the Reverend Dr. Robert Aikman of Madison, New Jersey. At the sacrament season of this year William Hinxman, Leander Ellis, Miss Alice Maud Bain were received into Church fellowship. The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. William Caines—Edward Hallock Caines—and the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elkanah Bent,—were baptised.

#### AUTHORITIES.

1. Notes made by the catechists in a small book in the possession of George Andrew Turnbull.

---

## CHAPTER XIII.

### SAME SUBJECT CONTINUED.

In the fall of 1884 among the clergymen who preached here were—The Reverend George Christie, on October 21st, and the Reverend Doctor Bennett of St. Stephen's Church, St. John, N. B., on November 4th. Dr. Bennett described Bay View as the last place on earth, and expressed surprise that anyone should desire to live there. The day must have been extremely foggy, obscuring from the eye the many beauties of the spot. Else surely the Reverend Doctor would not have given such a description of Bay View.

On November 14th, Mr. William Dawson, and on December 2nd, Reverend Anderson Rogers, conducted worship.

On December 16th, the Reverend Allan Simpson of Poplar Grove Church, Halifax, visited the field, and on December 23rd, Mr. J. W. McLellan.

During the summer of 1885 Mr. E. H. Byington of Hartford, Connecticut, supplied Digby and stations. Mr. Byington often exchanged with Mr. MacGregor who was laboring as a catechist in Bridgetown.

During this summer the Reverend Omille Reed of Springfield, Mass., preached on two occasions for the Presbyterians.

The Reverend Mr. Maxwell of Annapolis, dispensed the Sacrament on August 30th. He baptised Laura May, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Adams, and Hermon Roderick, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leander Ellis.

In November of the same year the Reverend Mr. Maxwell again visited Bay View, preaching morning and evening.

During the summer of 1885 the church at Bay View, or rather the congregation, was organized, four trustees elected; a deed of the land recorded, and the management of the Church affairs placed on a more systematic plan.

J. McIver Wicker of Virginia, laboured at Bay View and Digby during part of the year 1886. Mr. Wicker had travelled much in the Southern States, and visited the house of Col. David Fanning of Redburns Creek (afterwards of Digby) to whom I have

already referred. Mr. Wicker described the house as being literally riddled with bullets.

On the second Sabbath of August the services both at Bay View and at Digby were conducted by E. H. Byington, the catechist of the previous summer.

The greater part of the collection in Digby was utilized in paying for a house of worship. The old Baptist church was secured at the rate of fifty cents a service.

In a report submitted to the Presbytery of Halifax, the late Reverend P. M. Morrison, D. D., said, "I consulted with some of the leading men with reference to the supply for the coming summer at Digby. I found them of the opinion that the service of a catechist was the best that can be done just now. They considered that, on account of the distance from Annapolis, and the small amount they can contribute, that it would be impracticable to have an ordained missionary in charge of this place and Annapolis." Accordingly Mr. Fulton J. Coffin was sent as catechist to Bay View in 1887.

On June 3rd, the Baptist Association being in Session at Digby, that body kindly consented to supply the stations. The Reverend Mr. Richards of Argyle, Yarmouth, preached at Bay View in the morning, and the Reverend Dr. Day in the hall at Digby in the afternoon to a large audience.

On the first Sabbath of September the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper were dispensed in the Church at Bay View by the Reverend E. H. Byington of Springfield, Massachusetts, who had

laboured as catechist in this field two summers previous.

The annual meeting of the Bay View Church was held on August 25th. The retiring trustees were re-elected. Mr. Bent was elected Secretary and Treasurer, and Mr. Charles Adams, Chairman of trustees.

J. M. Fisher, second year student of Dalhousie College, Halifax, having been sent by the Halifax Presbytery to Bay View, to supply this mission station during the holidays, held services morning and evening in the church at Bay View. The people seemed to appreciate Gospel privileges. Service was also held morning and evening on New Year's Day, but owing to storms the attendance was small. No service was held at Digby as no place could be secured wherein to conduct worship, the Baptist hall having been sold.

Lewis W. Parker succeeded J. M. Fisher, and labored for two summers at Bay View; the summers of 1888-89.

On September 30, 1888, Reverend John G. Cameron of Bridgetown, dispensed the Sacraments. Two children were baptised,—Allalie Lavenia, Maggie Augusta,—children of Alex Adams.

Mr. Parker devoted much time to the people of Broad Cove. During the summer of 1889 Mr. Parker also laboured here. A church was bought in Digby town and fitted up for services. This year the Sacraments were dispensed by the Reverend William Fraser, B. Sc., of Bridgetown, and the infant child

of Mr. and Mrs. Leander Ellis was baptised and named—Cora Mildren Ellis.

During the summer of 1890 the Reverend A. V. Moreash, then a student of Divinity, ministered unto the people here, he was followed by the Reverend Robert Murray, formerly of Cow Bay and Lawrence-town.

For three summers Mr. W. H. Smith, M. A. B. D., now of Summerside, P. E. I., laboured as a catechist . . . Bay View and Digby.

The Reverend W. W. McNairn followed Mr. Smith and was the last student to labour here. This was during the summer of 1896.

On September 14th, 1890, the Reverend William Fraser baptised the following children at Bay View,—Daisy Morash McKinnon, Charles Freeman Bent, Percy Bent and Eva Jane Bent.

The following September Mr. Fraser also visited Digby and baptised Bessie Beatrice, Fannie May, Charles Original Mason—children of Mr. and Mrs. William Caines.

The Reverend Professor Robert A. Falconer, M. A., B. D. preached at Digby and Bay View on May 20th, 1895, and baptised Hattie Smith Hayden, child of A. E. Hayden.

#### AUTHORITIES.

Church Records at Bay View.

## CHAPTER XIV,

THE PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS SENDS  
AN ORDAINED MISSIONARY TO LABOUR IN DIGBY.

THE ERECTION OF A NEW CHURCH.

In the spring of 1897 the Reve. end George F. Johnson came to Digby to labour as an ordained missionary among the Presbyterians. During his pastorate a comfortable little church was erected in Digby town. In the dedicatory services, which were held on September the 24th, 1897, the Pastor, Rev. George F. Johnson, and the Rev. J. G. Cameron of Bridgetown, participated, but the leading part was taken and the sermon preached by the Rev. Professor Gordon, D. D., of Halifax. His discourse deduced from the text Acts 1, viii, was an excellent epitome of Christian doctrine, and a plain Gospel faith has seldom had better advocacy. While avoiding sectarian ground the position of the Presbyterians as a Church was fully expounded and the reason of their existence was traced back to an historical origin; an inheritance from the pioneers which was justified by an act of faith in the fundamentals of Christianity.

Dr. Gordon also occupied the pulpit in the evening and delivered another excellent sermon to a large congregation.

The building, which has thus been set apart as a new place of worship, is a decided addition to the good appearance of the town. Facing Queen Street and near the building of Holy Trinity Church it has

an excellent situation and surroundings. The building itself is small but very neat, and in its finish and appearance could be but little improved upon.

---

## CHAPTER XV.

### A CHAPTER OF SOME OF THE ACCIDENTS AND TRAGEDIES THAT HAVE HAPPENED WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF DIGBY COUNTY.

Sitting on the shores of Annapolis Basin and watching what immortal floods the sunset pours upon its waters, there is a rapture ; there is a society where none intrudes. Now the billows roar, now all is tranquil as Elysian shores. It is hard therefore, to realize that those same waters conceal the remains of many a human being who has met a watery grave. Many are the drowning accidents that have occurred near the shores of Digby town.

About twenty-three years ago, two sons of Major John Daley—Wiswell and William, with their cousin, Robert M. Douglas, a young man of nineteen, went duck shooting on the Basin in a canoe piloted by an Indian named Jerry. In some way or other the canoe upset off Hawkesworth's Point, and all its occupants were thrown into the water. The Indian succeeded in saving the lives of the two Daley boys, but young Douglas was drowned. His body was recovered at low tide, by Mr. Malcolm McKinnon of Digby.

Following this accident a party of ladies and gentlemen from Smith's Cove, who had sailed over

to Digby town and were returning home, were drowned. It seems that off Bear Island a squall struck the boat, and as she lay over some barrels of flour rolled to the side upsetting the boat. The women were all drowned, and of the whole party two alone were saved.

In the fall of 1884, Charles Woodworth of Digby Neck, sailed to Smith's Cove with a load of fish. As he was about to return to Digby three negroes, one, Bradley by name, requested to accompany him, as they had to begin work on Burnham's new building the following morning. Accordingly the four set sail for Digby. When about 300 yards from the shore the boat suddenly upset. Woodworth was drowned and two of the negroes. John Lockwood, who at that time operated a saw and grist mill at Acacia Valley, witnessed the accident. Two of the bodies were recovered.

In March, 1886, Heustis Burnham and John Walker, the latter a nephew of the Reverend J. S. Brown the Baptist minister then stationed in Digby, set out shooting duck in a punt. When night came and they did not return their friends became alarmed. Next day both bodies were seen floating in the water, Burnham's near Hurricane Point, and Walker's up the Joggin. As to how the punt upset, or in what manner they were thrown out, shall never be known.

Custa J. L. Daley, son of Mr. John Daley, one of the best known citizens of Digby, accompanied by Harry McBride, left home on the afternoon of June 13th, 1889, in a sail boat to carry two gentlemen

across to Granville. The wind was blowing from the south-west and squally. When returning between the buoy and Bent's Point the boat was seen to capsize and suddenly disappear. As soon as possible boats were rowed to the scene, but long before assistance arrived the boat with its occupants had sunk. The rudder together with an oar and bailer, were picked up. Searching parties laboured and dragged for many weeks and months but the bodies were never recovered. Both were promising lads: Daley was nineteen, and MacBride three years his junior.

In the month of January, 1890, Norman Poole of Smith's Cove and a young boy, Maynard Dennison by name, went off in a small boat about dusk to bring in a dory that was distant about half a mile from the shore. They had gone about thirty minutes when Poole's sister heard her brother's voice calling for help. A small boat at once went off in the direction of the cries. The rescuers rowed as hard as they could but could find no trace of the drowning men, their cries having ceased almost before relief set out. Returning to the beach, the shore was searched and soon the little boat and oars were found. The boat was bottom up in the surf. Parties grappled for the bodies, and three or four days after the accident Dennison's body was hooked up. Dennison was about fifteen years of age and lived with Mr. Poole, working for him on the farm.

In August, 1893, two Indians, Louis Pictou and Peter Muise, started in a canoe up the Bay Shore for white maple. After passing Green Point the water

was quite smooth and Pictou seized his gun to shoot a loon that was near by. Muse continued paddling, when on looking behind him he saw a shark coming towards the canoe. Pictou, who had his gun already loaded, fired full into the body of the shark, not, however, before this huge fish had bitten a piece out of the canoe over a foot wide and two feet long. The bark was not bitten through, but being of a brittle nature was literally torn off. The ribs also were destroyed for some feet. The two Indians were soon struggling in the water, the canoe going over and over like a log. Muse grasped hold of one end and told Pictou to do the same, but he was so far gone that falling backward he went down for the last time. Muse continued calling for help and paddling with one hand for the shore which he had nearly reached when help came. Pictou's body was afterwards found very near where he went down. The verdict of the Jury after viewing the body was this—"That Louis Pictou, Indian, age thirty-eight, came to his death by accidental drowning on the seventh of August, 1893, caused by injury to his canoe from a huge shark thrusting its nose clear through it, making a hole fifteen inches across and causing it to upset and fill." At one time Digby was quite a ship-building centre. On the day that the last vessel was launched in the Basin near Digby (the name of the vessel I believe, was the "Wayfarer") Leland Anderson lost his life by drowning. It appears that he went out in a small boat to collect the driftwood after the launch, and had not proceeded far from the shore when he

was seized with a *cramp*, fell overboard and was drowned. The Reverend Doctor Ambrose, the Episcopal Rector at that time, seeing Anderson fall overboard, ran immediately to the wharf, jumped overboard and swam to the spot where Anderson had gone down. Mr. Ambrose dived three times for the body but was unsuccessful in recovering it.

In the Autumn of 1888, Daniel Bremner and his son, a boy of sixteen, met watery graves in Digby Gut. Mr. Bremner was a skilful mariner and understood thoroughly how to handle his boat, yet the squall which came upon him was too great for his craft, and so it upset and sank. Both the father and son were drowned, and their bodies were never afterwards seen.\*

On Monday evening, September the 20th, 1897, Augustus Winfield and Walter Stewart † started in a row boat for Smith's Cove. In some way the boat upset when about one hundred yards from shore. Both men succeeded in climbing on the upset boat and were informed by parties on shore that they would rescue them. Winfield, however, attempted to swim for shore. Having covered but half the distance he was seen to throw up his arms and sink. Stewart was taken from his perilous position and brought to shore where willing hands, after some time, revived him. In the meantime a party set out in search for the body of Winfield. It was now dark,

---

\*The body of Bremner was seen floating in the Bay of Fundy afterwards.

† Mr. Stewart has since died.

and so lanterns were secured. At length Winfield's body was found on the flats where the receding tide had left it. The unfortunate man was thirty-two years of age, and left a widow and three small children.

On Sunday, the eleventh of September, 1898, as the schooner the "Westwind" was sailing past the buoy off Bear Island, the main boom jibed over carrying with it Captain George Post and William Dillon. A boat was immediately lowered, but only the captain was rescued. Dillon sank before help reached him. On the afternoon of September the 18th, while some gentlemen from Digby were walking on the Beach at Bear Island, they discovered the body of William Dillon where the last tide had left it. The body was brought to Digby and given into the hands of the Coroner.

Two other accidents, which I have omitted to mention were, the drowning of \*John Robinson and Mr. Fleet. These accidents all occurred on Annapolis Basin near Digby town.

The sad and fatal poisoning of Mrs. Ann Crozier by a druggist's mistake is still quite fresh in the memory of the inhabitants of Digby. Mrs. Crozier, a widow lady residing on Water Street, had been unwell for a few days and was ordered to take fifteen grains of sulfonal, by her medical attendant. In some way the druggist, an experienced and reliable man, substituted strychnine for sulfonal, a drug which it resembles very much in appearance. The medicine

---

\* Mr. Robinson was a brother of the present postmaster of Digby.

was sent to the deceased lady's residence and administered to her at once by her daughter. After taking the medicine Mrs. Crozier was seized by violent spasms and rigidity of the limbs, characteristics of poisoning by strychnine. Doctors were at once summoned but long before they arrived life was extinct. In the meantime the druggist discovered the horrible mistake that had been made, and hastened to the house and acknowledged his fatal error. The shock to the family was terrible; a loved and venerated mother, whose illness was tending to a speedy recovery had been hurried into eternity. Mrs. Crozier was 72 years of age and met her death on the 9th of September 1890.

On an afternoon in October, 1889, Edward Murphy, Aubry and John Post and Charles O'Connor of Culloden, set out sheep-hunting. They climbed up on a high rock that they might look around on the surrounding hills, if, perchance a glimpse might be caught of the stray sheep. Being weary, all sat down to rest, but Murphy. On the top of the rock upon which they were sitting was a huge boulder loose, weighing about a ton or more. Murphy, who was standing near this rock, caught it with both hands, his back being to the edge of the cliff. The rock gave way, pushing Murphy over the edge of the cliff, and falling on top of him a distance of thirty feet, it crushed him to death. His companions ran down to where Murphy was lying on his back, the rock resting upon him. Murphy never spoke but in a few minutes breathed his last.

On the 13th of March 1894, Joshua Sweeney, a farmer of Marshalltown, went into the woods near Digby to chop timber. Stumbling over a log, he fell on his axe, severing an artery in his thigh, by which means he bled to death. Sweeney, after his fall, started for home, but only went about fifty feet, and then died. He was found by the searching party at daylight next morning.

When the local battery went to drill, on July 30th, 1889, they found a shot stuck fast in one of the thirty-two pounder cannon. It was jammed in with sticks so that they could not get it out. It was driven out with a small quantity of powder, going with a far greater force than was expected. The shot struck the floor ; glanced upwards ; went through a mattress ; and through the door of the rifle rack ; through the end wall of a building and crashed its way into a stable twelve feet away. The ball struck one of the stable-men in the back of the neck, and although assistance reached him at once, he was found lying on his back, quite dead.

The wreck of the ill fated Government Steamship "Princess Louise" near Digby Gut on the night of December 3rd, 1883, is still remembered. The "Princess Louise" was being towed by the Steamship "Newfield" from Canning where she had recently been launched. When near Christopher's Bluff her line parted, and she was driven on the rocks. Of the crew, consisting of ten men, all were drowned save two. The body of Captain Brown was found hanging on a sharp rock, while that of one of the other officers

was discovered jammed in the crevices of a huge boulder. A monument, erected by the Dominion Government, marks the scene of this sad catastrophe.

A short distance from this spot, the S. S. "Newfield" now lies herself a total wreck, with the waves of the ocean washing over her.

On the night of Monday, February 13th, 1899, amid a blinding north-easterly snow-storm a fearful and disastrous fire swept over the town of Digby, wiping out the entire business portion of the town. At 9.45 p. m., while the majority of the merchants with their wives were celebrating a wedding anniversary fire broke out in the basement of Letteney's store. An alarm was sent in at once, and soon the fire apparatus was got into play. The snow bound D. A. R. trains, blocked the passage of the streets, while the velocity of the gale carried cinders to adjoining buildings. The flames quickly spread both ways, on both sides of the main street, till nearly every building in the vicinity was a mass of fire. A train of freight cars, side-tracked in front of the station, being surrounded by sparks from the burning houses, became so hot that the telegraph operator was compelled to retreat from his office. The snow was driving, and the cold so intense, that many of the citizens as well as the firemen were covered with ice. The fire continued to spread, and dry-goods, boots, shoes, household furniture, show cases, were carried out and piled on the streets, the ever increasing snow-drifts covering a large portion of the already damaged goods.

The fire continued to rage for seven hours, and it was not until about 3.30 on Tuesday morning that it was under control and confined to the burning foundations. At daylight the town presented a sad scene. The foundations were still slowly burning and the streets were filled with furniture, and wares, half covered with snow.

It is now some time ago that Hutchinson and Worthylake shot one another, while at a dance at Comeau's house on the old Marshalltown road. Hutchinson was a large man who resided at the time on Digby Neck. Worthylake was small of stature and lived on the Bay road. A family feud had existed for a long time between these two men arising out of Worthylake persisting in paying attention to Hutchinson's sister against her family's wishes. Hutchinson had threatened on several occasions to punish Worthylake, and so, the latter, being no match for the big man, carried with him a revolver. It happened that they met at a dance given at Comeau's house. During the evening, while the dance was waxing fast and furious, they got into an altercation, and becoming noisy were ejected from the house into the yard. A number of the guests followed, expecting to witness a fight. In the yard Worthylake pulled out his revolver and threatened to shoot Hutchinson if he dared to approach him. Hutchinson grasped a stick of cord-wood and made a rush for his enemy, whereupon Worthylake fired, the bullet entering the right lung of Hutchinson. After Hutchinson realized that he was shot, he pounced upon Worthylake and

grasping the revolver blew out his brains. Worthy-lake died instantly, but Hutchinson lingered for nine days, and then expired. Both alike paid the penalty of their crimes.

The murder of the young girl Annie Kempton, of Bear River, by Peter D. Wheeler, on the night of January 27th, is of comparatively recent date. Into the particulars of this horrible crime I shall not go. Suffice it to say that on the 8th September, 1896, Peter D. Wheeler came to his death by hanging at the hands of Benj. VanBlarcom, High Sheriff of Digby County, in Digby town, in pursuance of an order by the Supreme Court that he should hang by the neck till dead for the murder of Annie Kempton at Bear River. The inhabitants of Bear River erected a beautiful monument to the memory of this unfortunate girl.

On December 16th, 1875, there was hung in the jail yard at Digby, a man Robbins by name, for the wilful murder of his wife. He shot her while asleep, with a rifle, and then hammered the unfortunate woman's brains out with a mallet. For eleven days after the crime he escaped arrest, hiding and concealing himself in the woods. During that time he harassed his wife's relations, by burning down their barns, shaving the tails of their horses, and even threatening them with death. One night, several days subsequent to the murder, while a search party under Zeigler were going through the woods, they saw the flicker of a light in the distance. They followed its guidance and at length came upon Robbins

who was sound asleep before a fire. There and then he was hand-cuffed and brought to Digby. The day on which he was cast into prison his hair was perfectly black, and on December 16th. 1875, when he walked to the gallows to pay the penalty of his crime, the crowd perceived that his hair had become perfectly white.

These, then, are some of the accidents, and some of the tragedies, that have disturbed the peacefulness of many a home, bringing sorrow, death and disaster into them ; and which for a day or a week have been the subject of converse on the street, and then passed away, to be remembered only as they are recorded on the pages of history.

#### AUTHORITIES.

Information in possession of Major John Daley, Digby.

## CHAPTER XVI.

## FOLK LORE CONNECTED WITH DIGBY AND ITS SETTLERS—SOME TRUE AND SOME PROBABLY UNTRUE.

I shall devote this chapter to a narration of some of the legends and stories that I have gathered through the county ; some of which, so far as I know, have never been committed to writing. And the first incident that I shall relate is—

I.—*The Famous Totten Trial.*

Among the early Loyalists who settled Digby Town was a gentleman named Hecht (to whom I have referred in a former chapter), a commissary in the British Army. Mr. Hecht owned the property at present occupied by the dwelling-houses of Messrs. Harley, Jenner, Stewart and Shreve. Hecht's family consisted of a wife and an only daughter, Agnes by name, who unfortunately was extremely deaf.

There came from New York about the same time a family of Tottens, very proud, but also very poor. One of the daughters, Jane, had been adopted by Commissary Hecht that she might aid in performing household duties. Miss Jane Totten was above all things a lady, but also a great worker. A Colonel Hatfield, a man well up in years, had come with his wife to Digby and built a house near where the Fowler house now stands. Hatfield's wife became very ill and died, leaving no children. Shortly after

this sad event, it was rumoured that Col. Hatfield was to marry Agnes Hecht, the only daughter of Commissary Hecht. This was a surprise to all, because Miss Agnes was not only very deaf, but her age also partook of the nature of unknown quantities. The marriage was duly solemnized, and society was ceasing to wonder at it, when a child was born to Agnes. The little one was far from beautiful either in form or face, and when presented to the Reverend Edward Brudenell for baptism, he drew back for an instant wondering whether or not the rite of baptism should be performed upon the child. The baby soon died, and in the course of time both the Colonel and Agnes passed away, as did also Commissary Hecht, and wife. Thus all the Hecht property and possessions were left to the adopted daughter, Jane Totten.

Col. Hatfield had a brother, Ezekiel by name, living in St. John city, one of whose sons proceeded to South Africa and mingling with the tribes there, became himself a savage. Another son, Isaac, on hearing of the death of his uncle, Col. Hatfield, and also of Commissary Hecht, came to Digby and entered an action against Jane Totten, to recover the Hecht property; claiming that as Col. Hatfield had married the only legal heir of Commissary Hecht, and a child had been born to them; and that since, the child, the mother and father had all died—he was therefore the legal heir of Col. Hatfield and also of Commissary Hecht.

The trial was held in Digby Town, and for many weary weeks the case was argued. So certain was Isaac Hatfield of success that he feasted and banqueted

his friends, and he even had the "champagne on ice" with which to treat the jury after the verdict had been given. It happened, however, that Jane Totten won her case, and Hatfield lost. Isaac appealed to a higher court to have the verdict upset, whereupon, a codicil was discovered to Hecht's will stating that all the property should go to the Church on the death of Jane Totten. This discovery made a change in the proceedings necessary, and threw the influence of the Church on the side of Jane Totten.

On the death of Miss Totten, which occurred in Annapolis while on a visit there, this large estate fell into the hands of the Vestry of Trinity Church. The Episcopal Rectory occupies a portion of this estate while the greater part of it has been sold by the Church for private building lots.

## II.—*"How Enoch Towner cursed the Town."*

Enoch Towner, before visiting Digby, had been a sergeant in the Revolutionary Army. He was a large, handsome man of athletic build, and his ability was above the average. Impelled by a strong desire to save the souls of his fellow men he wandered through Digby County preaching. He was an adherent of that sect called the "New Lights" which eventually developed into the Baptist denomination.

In 1797, when Towner first visited Digby, there was but one "New Light" family in the place, and not one Dissenting meeting-house in the entire county. Under such discouraging circumstances he came a stranger among strangers.

In Digby at that time Towner was regarded very much as we would regard an anarchist who came into our midst—that is—with suspicion. Every species of obloquy and defamation were heaped upon him—His doctrines were decried—his motives maligned—and his character calumniated. On several occasions Towner had been warned that if he presumed to preach his heretical doctrines in Digby town, he would be driven out.

On the 14th, of June 1800, he not only preached in Digby Town in a small house situated near the present Manhattan Hotel, but he dared to solemnize the marriage of Jacob Cornwall and Sarah Titus. This was looked upon as a crime in those days for any but an Episcopal Clergyman to perform such a ceremony. The inhabitants of the town were up in arms; the Episcopal Clergyman at Digby instigated the Bishop of Nova Scotia to prosecute Towner for daring to perform the rite of matrimony. Towner was hunted out by an angry crowd of men and boys, chased up and down the main street of the town, pelted with mud, fish-gurry, and rotten eggs, and thus driven out. When Towner reached the summit of the town hill, he removed his boots, shook the dust from off them, and cursed the town of Digby with an awful curse for one hundred years. In the meantime the Bishop of Nova Scotia proceeded to prosecute him. The late Honorable Simon Bradstreet Robie appeared in behalf of the defendant. The parties were cited before the court in Halifax—Counsel on both sides were heard—witnesses were examined

—and a decision adverse to the prosecution was given.

### III.—*Bennet's Maledictions.*

In the closing years of the 18th century there came to Digby either from the States, or from Scotland, it matters not from where, a gentleman known as Bennet. At that time the waters teemed with those herring which have made the name of Digby so well known in the fish markets of the world, and which under the name of "Digby Chickens," are still exported. The early fishermen knew nothing of the way in which to cure and smoke the fish until Bennet arrived, and under his instructions they very soon became skilled in the art. After they perceived that Bennet had taught them all that was to be learned concerning fish and fish-curing, some of the older men complained that Bennet's presence in the community was distasteful to them, and agitated to have him forced out. Accordingly he was allowed no fishing privileges, or shares in the fishing vessels or trade. Scant courtesy was shown, and so badly was he treated that his life became a continual strife and turmoil. Finally he decided to withdraw from the community and on the eve of his departure uttered some of the most fearful maledictions against the town; saying that he knew God would curse the town and cause poverty to come upon the people for the manner in which they had driven out an honest man. And strange to say for the two years following Bennet's exclusion the fisheries proved a total failure, and many were impoverished thereby.

IV.—*Colonel Barton and his Haunted House.*

Many years ago there stood on a lot of land situated on Queen Street, between the dwelling-houses at present inhabited by Messrs. Lynch and Croskill, a low, gloomy, creepy looking red house, which had been erected by Colonel Barton after the War of 1776, to shelter him and his wife, and the slaves whom he brought with him from the Southern States. The old Colonel was not the sweetest of men ; nor did he possess the spirit of that Patriarch of old, who was willing to endure all things with patience. A life of warfare had rendered him unsympathetic and cold. We are not surprised therefore to know, that when his wife received a bad cut on the head by a picture falling upon her, the only expression of sympathy escaping the lips of Colonel Barton was, "That she ought always to look up, not down." When therefore it was the Colonel's good fortune to stumble over a log of wood, which protruded from the fire place, and break his leg, his good wife soothed his feelings by saying, "Well, dear, you should always look down, and not up."

There was a little mystery connected with that red house. One dark night screams were heard, but the world outside never ascertained the cause. The old Colonel passed away and his wife followed him. The house came to be looked upon with horror. Children would not pass it alone, and even men whistled when doing so to maintain their courage. At night the vicinity was avoided, for all feared to meet the spirit

of the negress who, it was whispered, had been murdered and buried beneath the hearth. For many years the old house remained vacant. The beautiful gardens surrounding it were allowed to run wild, none daring to pick the luscious fruit that grew upon the bushes and trees. Finally this old "homestead" suffered the fate of the crumbling tombstone, the gorgeous mansoleum, the sculptured marble and the venerable cathedral. It became a heap of ruins; these in time disappeared and few of those who visit Digby or even dwell there, know the history of Colonel Barton's haunted house.

*V.—How the first horse came to Digby County.*

It was along the shores of Digby Neck, that Thomas Dakin and his wife took up their abode over a century ago. Then, as now, Neptune raised up his turbulent plains, the sea fell and leaped upon the trembling shores. She remounted, groaned, and with redoubled blows made the abyss and the shaken mountains resound. The night had been stormy. The wind howling and whistling around the little house on the shores, had caused the inmates to fear lest the rising waters would overthrow their home. Next morn the sun rose o'er St. Mary's Bay as tho' tempests and gales were unknown, and dark and lowering clouds but the baseless fabric of visions. Thomas, leaving his house, took his way along the shore in search of wreckage washed thither by the fury of the waves. He had not proceeded far when he noticed something strange swimming in the water.

He watched it's struggles and attempts to gain the shore. Then becoming alarmed, he ran to inform his wife of what he had seen. Together they returned to the shore and there they saw this strange, inexplicable thing walking on the beach. It proved to be a large chestnut mare. Dakin waxing courageous, bubbling o'er with that heroism born of Troy, made an attack upon the poor, cold, jaded beast, and secured the enemy, and accompanied by his wife, marched in triumph to his farm where temporary accommodation was provided for the mare. Thus it was that this strange animal made her advent to Digby County.

#### VI.—*An Unsolved Mystery.*

The old man's name was Thomas. He had come from the Southern States and built a little cottage in Digby, where, with no companion but a faithful dog, he eked out an existence. He had his peculiarities. We must not think less of him for that, for we are all likewise afflicted. For some reason or other he had no friends but many enemies. One evening, just at dusk, two men were seen to enter the cottage where Thomas dwelt. Had this not been such an unusual event, it would have elicited no comment from the neighbours. But as it was, great was the curiosity aroused. The two visitors made a lengthy visit. At least, so it was supposed for no one saw them depart. It had been the practise of the old man to smoke his pipe every morning on a seat in his garden, where the rays of the sun would impart warmth. Consequently no one was surprised to see Thomas the fol-

lowing morning in his accustomed place, with the pipe in his mouth. There he sat this morning, neither looking to the right hand or the left, evidently lost in meditation on the events of the previous night. Mid-day arrived, still he continued in his seat; and the hour of his evening meal did not rouse him from his reverie. Evidently something was preying upon his mind to such an extent as to rob him of his appetite.

Knowing him to be an eccentric man, no one disturbed him. The propensity to pry into the affairs of neighbours may have been at that time in its infancy. It could not, at any rate, have been so abnormally developed then as it is to-day, else Thomas would have been the victim of the "doorbell" or rather "knocker." But when upon rising the next morning the neighbors discovered him still in his seat, lost in meditation, and heard his faithful dog howling piteously, suspicions were aroused. Investigation revealed the fact that Thomas was dead and had been so for many hours. No marks of violence were found upon his body, yet his death was in some way connected with the visit of the two men. Whether they poisoned him and before "rigor mortis" set in, placed him in his accustomed seat, that suspicion might not attach to them; or whether apoplexy caused death, shall never be known. To this day it remains an unsolved mystery.

#### VII.—*"Why Currie Became a Methodist."*

Ross Currie was a perfect picture of a thriving contented farmer. His eyes or his thoughts seldom

went beyond the bounds of his own farm. He was not the gentlest of mortals nor the meekest of men, for the law of heredity had made him obstinate, dogmatic and strong-willed. In those early days in Digby the Church of England feared no religious rivals. Mr. Currie, like many of his neighbors, held a pew in Trinity Church, the one condition of retaining possession of which was this,—that once in three months the owner should appear in person and occupy the pew during a service. This condition Mr. Currie faithfully adhered to, though I have heard it rumored, that he generally fell asleep during the service. For a number of years all was peaceful ; no quarrels or strife or heresies interfered with Mr. Currie's quarterly visits to Trinity. But eventually trouble arose. The ladies were not satisfied. They considered that more of the earth's surface should be covered by them, and so without the slightest warning, hoop-skirts routed the former fashions and styles and gained a victory in Digby. The streets of the town were indeed wide enough to prevent collisions, and in extreme cases by making detours or describing a series of semi-circles it was possible for the ladies to successfully effect a crossing without doing violence to the hoops. But the aisles of Trinity Church had not been constructed to permit the describing of semi-circles or counter-marching. Furthermore some of the pews trespassed upon the aisles more than others. This certainly endangered the hoops, and undoubtedly affected the graceful carriage of the fair dames.

It so happened that Mr. Currie occupied one of

these objectionable pews. Something must be done to clear the aisle for the triumphant passage of the hoop-skirt. It was at this juncture that the Vestry and wardens were appealed to. The ladies demanded redress for their grievances. Thus it was that Mr. Currie was induced to enter upon a war. He flatly refused to demolish his pew. On being approached again, he offered his pew for sale at a fabulous price. The Vestry would not buy and Mr. Currie would not remove his pew. Meanwhile the weekly destruction and crushing of the hoops precipitated matters. Some of the wardens, probably hen-pecked husbands, armed with a saw accomplished the work of demolition without Currie's consent. Thereupon the aggrieved party renounced all connection with the Episcopal Church, consigned the "Thirty-nine Articles" to oblivion, forgot, in his wrath, "Apostolic Succession" and became an ardent disciple of Wesley. Styles, fashions, hoops and skirts had gained the day in Trinity.

#### VIII.—*The Story of Honest Hardy.*"

Hardy of Smith's Cove, was a well known personage in Digby. His form, bent almost double, was often seen coming down the street, and his reputation for honesty, truthfulness and one-priced goods was exceeded by none. He had also a local notoriety for his ability to supply early vegetables before any others, and if indeed, some neighbouring farmer chanced to forestall him by placing potatoes on the market, Hardy regarded it as a crushing defeat and a reproach. Yes, he was honest. Honest toward him-

self and toward his fellow man. So honest, in fact, that he was known to return to his home with a load of fish rather than sell them one cent cheaper than the price first asked. And if, on making up the returns for the day he discovered that his cash was over by the amount of two cents. Hardy would travel two or three miles until he found the rightful owner of the two cents.

He was also truthful ; painfully so. He had been making an evening call at a neighbour's house distant about two miles from his own dwelling. His mission was to borrow potatoes. That night the snow was deep and the wind cold. Hardy had a sick child at the time and it was only natural that inquiries should be made concerning his child. Hardy informed the party that his little girl had taken cold while sitting on the floor. The usual good-nights were exchanged and Hardy and his bag of potatoes took their departure. He was almost in sight of his own home, when turning about and retracing his steps through the deep snow and coming again to the neighbour's house he knocked timidly at the door. It was opened, " Why Hardy, what is the matter? I thought you were home by this time !" exclaimed his friend. " I was in sight of my own dwelling," said Hardy, gasping for breath, " but I came back because I told your wife a lie. I said my daughter caught cold by sitting on the floor, but my conscience would not let me rest, for I should have said that she caught cold by sitting on the bed. I am sincerely sorry, I confess my sin, I shall not lie

again ; good-night." And truthful Hardy trudged back to his home with a clear conscience, and the bag of potatoes, which also seemed to bear the punishment of he who bore the burden.

### IX.—“ *The Knock of Death.*”

The winter had set in early that year and the good people of Broad Cove were looking forward to a long, cold, but withal, a pleasant season. Charles Adams, a man happy in the lot that God had given him, and proud of his children, exerted an influence for good in the community. His oldest boy had departed in a sail boat that day to fish. Toward evening snow fell heavily and the wind blowing a gale, caused the waves to leap mountains high. The son had not returned, and the father, knowing well the fury of the storm, betook himself to the shore, if perchance he might catch a glimpse of his boy. At no little distance he descried a sail boat battling nobly with the waves. Now it would rise on the crest of a mighty wave, then disappear altogether, buried in the trough of that awful sea. He watched the little boat struggling, till darkness and the blinding snow storm cast a veil over the waters. He shouted, he called his boy by name, he walked the shore for miles in the hope of discovering the landing place of the boat. He did not dare to let the thought enter his mind that the little boat had succumbed, and even if it had that it contained his boy. Fruitless in his search the father returned to his home. As the wind howled round the dwelling and the family hugged the warm

fire, one chair was vacant. Yet none thought that death had caused the vacancy, for Hope, the dearest friend of man, seemed to tell them that their son and brother was safe and would soon return.

One by one the hours sped on. Eight, nine, ten o'clock came. The suspense was awful ;—an eternity of torment to the father and mother whose minds were strained to terrible tension, yet no boy. The father approached the door, opened it, tried to penetrate the darkness and even held up a lamp in the vain hope that its rays might hasten his son's return. But an angry gust of wind rudely extinguished the light and left all in darkness. The wind had now increased in fury. How it moaned and sighed round that house, giving audible expression to the feelings of the hearts within. And how the sleet pattered on the window panes.

Eleven o'clock ! Listen ? What is that which so startles the weary waiters ? Listen ! A loud knocking at the door. For an instant ; only an instant. In a moment the door is opened, fruitless exertion ; for no one stands without and no one responds to the demand, " who knocked ? " What did it mean ? Ah, they knew now—they remembered the ill omen—it was the knock of death—their boy had ceased to be.

X.—"*The Beaver of Digby Neck.*"

They called him beaver. Not because he was an amphibious quadruped of the genus *Castor* ; or because he had short ears, a blunt nose, small fore-feet or large hind-feet. Nor was it because of his ingenuity in constructing lodges or habitations, or

because his skin was suitable for a silk hat. For none of these reasons was the Major of Digby Neck called Beaver, for the fact was that he was not a quadruped, nor a builder of lodges, or feller of trees. Strange to say he was a dapper man, with a sharp, abrupt manner, a critical eye and an incisive way of speaking, and perhaps too a little hasty in his disposition. His slaves were many and faithful and obedient, but not all. The Major had been accustomed to command conquering legions and rule over men who were convinced that disobedience meant death. It was hard therefore to be defied by his slaves. The body of a black man shot through the heart was found. As the Major had been the only individual shooting in the vicinity on the morning of the discovery of the body, the authorities instituted proceedings against him. He expressed sorrow that one of his slaves should have been killed and admitted having fired in the direction where the body lay. But he felt convinced that he fired at a beaver and not a black man. Ever afterwards he was called Beaver.

He drew a pension, so it was said, ten years after he died, although the pension was supposed to cease with his death. This sentence may savour of an Irish bull, yet it is nevertheless true.

#### XI.—“*The Marooning of Jerome.*”

It was forty years ago, on the shores of Digby Neck, that the humble fisher folk observed a ship on the horizon. Her movements attracted attention, for

she seemed aimlessly hovering round. When darkness came she was still there. Next morning the vessel was gone, but a man, or rather the piece of a man was found on the beach. Both his legs had been amputated above the knees, and the wounds bandaged carefully. The operation had been performed recently and by a skilful hand. The man was about nineteen, with soft, flaxen hair and blue eyes. His white skin, delicate features and shapely hands betokened noble ancestry. His under-clothing was of finest linen and of a style never before seen by the fishermen. His sufferings seemed to be intense, for he groaned and groaned, but said nothing.

He was carried to a cottage near by where kind hands cared for him. During all this time he never spoke one word, and as little by little he recovered, yet he remained gloomy and silent. And although forty years have passed away since he was marooned in the mysterious manner described, he has never conveyed to any living being by speech a single thought. The people called him Jerome because they thought some of the sounds he made resembled that.

After a time his discoverers became weary of supporting him, and applied to the Legislature to be relieved of the burden. Accordingly an allowance of one hundred and four dollars was granted by the Local Government pending an investigation. This was held but no solution to the mystery was found. Jerome lives at present with a respectable French-Acadian family at Chetticamp on St. Mary's Bay shore, Digby County. He is still the silent, gloomy

man he was when first discovered, keeping to himself, never attempting to read or write. Various stories of a mutiny on a vessel; or a stolen heir being put out of the way; of a nobleman whose estates are in the hands of another, are among the reasons assigned for the marooning of Jerome.

### XII.—“*A Digby Hero.*”

In a preceding chapter reference has been made to Captain Augustus Annand. This gentleman, at present residing at Digby, was attached to the Second Corps of the Army of the Potomac under General Hancock during the civil war in the United States.

On the 18th day of May, 1864, the Second Brigade, First Division of the Second Army Corps, attacked the breast-works of the enemy at Spotsylvania Court House, Virginia. Mr. Annand, who was acting as Assistant Adjutant General, was commissioned to carry an order to the officer commanding the Sixty-Ninth New York. In order to accomplish this task he had to face a heavy fire, the enemy being within a range of seventy yards. He succeeded in delivering the order and was on his return when a “Minnie” ball, hitting him in the leg, shattered his ankle bone. Being sent to Fredericksburg Hospital amputation had to be resorted to in order to save his life.

Capt. Annand was subsequently transferred to Washington, where he was honoured with a visit from President Abraham Lincoln, the Honourable Joseph Howe, then Commissioner of Fisheries, and Sir Edward Bulwer-Lytton.