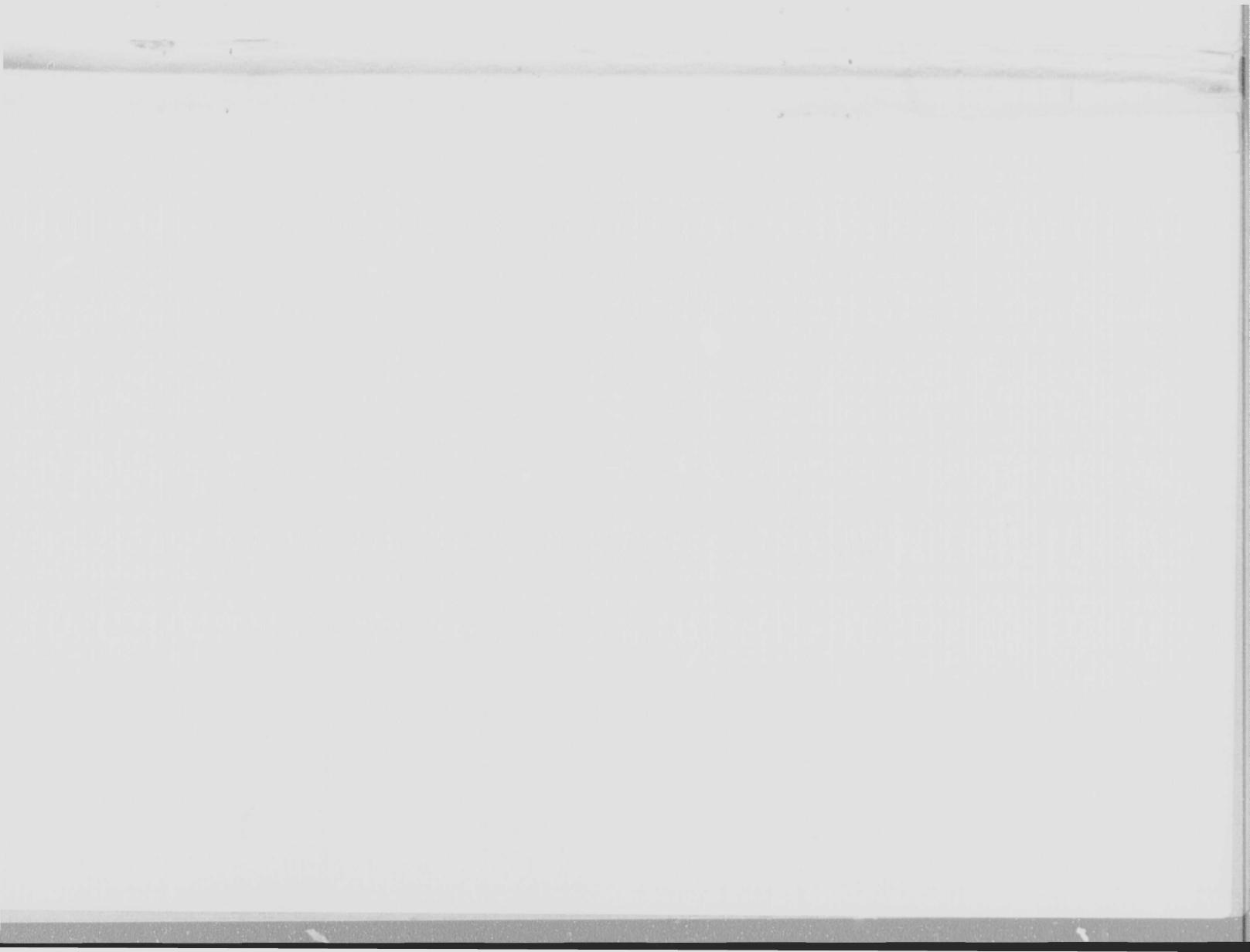


History
— OF —
St. Stephen's
Presbyterian Church
St. Stephen, N. B.

— BY —
Rev. L. B. Gibson, M.A., B.D.

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1834 = 1909  
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Issued in connection with the Seventy-fifth Anniversary
of the Founding of the Congregation

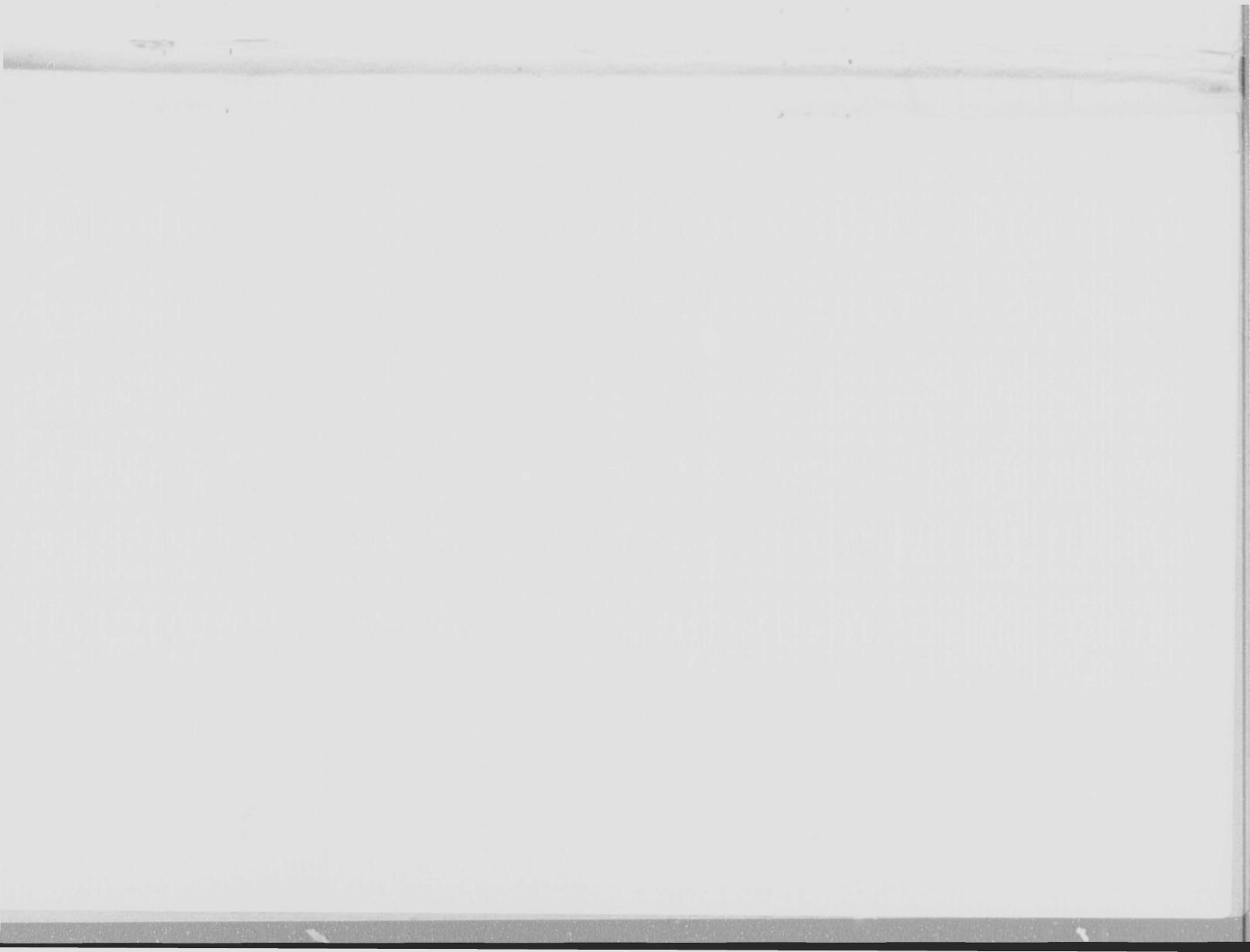


A Brief Historical Sketch
—OF—
St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church
St. Stephen, N. B.
—BY—
REV. L. B. GIBSON, M.A., B.D.



Issued in connection with the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of
the Founding of the Congregation, by the
Jubilee Committee

1909



INTRODUCTION

This booklet was written on the suggestion of members of the congregation as a suitable memento of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Church.

The writer was not conscious of any special qualification for such an undertaking, except a sincere love for all under his pastoral oversight.

Whilst many individuals supplied information or gave advice in its compilation, special thanks are due the members of the Trustee Board, and their Jubilee Committee, Messrs. J. D. Lawson, Esq., M.D., P. G. MacFarlane, Esq., M.A., and James Murray, Esq., for their co-operation and counsel.

In this booklet is traced the rise and progress of the Church from a Mission Station to a self-sustaining and a contributing Church, with the grandson of one of its founders in the Mission Field.

Conscious of many imperfections, this booklet is now sent forth. As it was love that shaped it, so, for any errors, omissions, or improper judgments, the writer craves the indulgence of all.

L. B. GIBSON.

The Manse,
St. Stephen, N. B.
1st Dec., 1909.

It is fitting that some words of commendation should be given the writer of this little book, for his indefatigable zeal and perseverance in collecting the material which enables the congregation of St. Stephen's Church, St. Stephen, to study the rise and progress of its beloved church during the past seventy-five years.

It is no easy task to glean from the annals of the past the necessary data. The early records were incomplete and scattered, and that so accurate an account has been obtained, and the broken links of evidence pieced together, speaks well for the Author's skill and untiring research.

But it is not only as an historian that this meed of praise is due. It was by his efforts mainly, that the church is in a position today to 'owe no man anything, but to love one another,' and in giving this small tribute of praise, we feel that it is but a slight appreciation of his influence for good in the church and the community at large.

G. B. S.

St. Stephen, December 1st, 1909.

Early Days.

The generation that connected the present residents of St. Stephen with its early inhabitants has almost gone the way of the majority, and with its passing an important link has been broken.

We are, therefore, deprived of an important and valuable source of information concerning the early history of the town.

As far as is known, the first settlers of St. Stephen arrived in 1779 or 1780; but it owes its origin mainly to the colony led thither by Captain Nehemiah Marks, consisting of 104 families of Loyalists who landed on June 24th, 1784. They hoisted the British Flag on a pole near the place now occupied by Buchanan and Co. and named the place Morristown, after Morris the last British Governor of New York.

People in those days had a strong veneration for the religion of their fathers, and generally sought a place of worship according to their liking.

At first the spiritual wants of the people were supplied by the Reverend Samuel Andrews, the Episcopal minister at St. Andrews. A Loyalist from Milford, Connecticut, he arrived in St. Andrews 1786 and received a grant of £250 annually from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.

About this time, Duncan McColl began to hold services in St. Stephen. He was born in Argyleshire, Scotland, August 22nd, 1754, and landed in St. Stephen about November 1785. He may be regarded as the founder of local Methodism although he was himself brought up in the Episcopal Church of Scotland.

Gradually, as the people increased in numbers and

EARLY DAYS

wealth, they formed themselves into different religious societies according to their upbringing.

As is evidenced by their names, many of the first settlers of St. Stephen were members of the Presbyterian Church who retained in their new home the warm attachment for their religion which they had formed in their father-land.

Although there is no record it is generally believed that the Reverend John Cassills, who took up his residence in St. Andrews in 1818 as principal of the Grammar School, was the first Presbyterian Clergyman to devote some attention to the spiritual interests of his co-religionists in St. Stephen.

In 1824 the Reverend Alexander MacLean was inducted as first Pastor of Greenock Church, St. Andrews, but the Presbyterians of St. Stephen were less fortunate.

That they were fairly strong at this time is evidenced by the handsome contribution of £75 Sterling which they gave in 1825 towards the erection of the Scotch Ridge Church.

The people of Scotch Ridge evidently appreciated their generosity; for, when they obtained a minister of their own in the person of the Reverend Peter McIntyre, a native of Sutherlandshire, Scotland, who commenced his work in August 1833, they willingly permitted him to devote a portion of his time to the Presbyterians of St. Stephen.

Mr. McIntyre, at first, held a few services in the Old Methodist Church, and afterwards at regular intervals in the residence of the late Aaron Upton where he died in 1838.

He was greatly loved and esteemed by all who knew him, and the influence of his devoted and Christ-like life was felt for many years. His remains are interred in the grave-yard at Scotch Ridge near to the Church he loved so well.

As a result of Mr. McIntyre's ministry, the Presby-

terians of St. Stephen undertook the erection of a church, on a site granted by the late Mr. Peter McDermott on the hill west of the residence of the late Judge Stevens, but it was never completed owing to want of funds.



First Resident Minister.

In the Autumn of 1840 the Reverend Andrew Stevens, a brother of the late Judge Stevens, arrived in St. Stephen, in the capacity of a missionary from the Church of Scotland.

The first service was held in the Old Methodist Church; and the Presbyterians of St. Stephen and adjoining districts assembled in large numbers to bid him welcome.

Afterwards he held services in a room over Ninian Lindsay's store, which stood on Water Street almost directly opposite the residence now occupied by J. D. Lawson, M. D.

For six years Mr. Stevens continued to minister with much acceptance; and when he resigned the oversight of the congregation his departure was deeply regretted by the whole community.

He returned to Scotland and resided there for a number of years. In 1855 he again visited his relatives and former congregation in St. Stephen. Shortly afterward he and his family went to New Zealand. In the Antipodes he enjoyed a prosperous ministry and was greatly appreciated. He died there on the 9th January, 1892, aged 80 years, surrounded by the members of his family, some of whom still remain and are deeply interested in religious work.

FIRST RESIDENT MINISTER

No reference to the work of the Reverend Andrew Stevens would be complete which failed to take cognizance of his relation to the Disruption movement.

In 1843 the Church of Scotland was rent in twain by what is called the Disruption which had its origin in the Patronage question, the same difficulty which had caused former secessions from the Church. As Patronage did not exist in New Brunswick, it might have been supposed that the Disruption would have had no effect on the Church in this Province.

The extreme zeal, however, of the Free Church party would not admit of the Presbyterian Church in New Brunswick remaining undisturbed.

Delegates were sent out by the Free Church of Scotland to the British North America Provinces for the purpose of breaking up the Established Church here, and they did their work so well that in 1845 three of the members of the Established Church seceded from it, and formed themselves into a Synod, to which they gave the official designation "The Synod of New Brunswick adhering to the Standards of the Westminster Confession." The names of the three ministers who formed the first Synod of the Free Church in New Brunswick which met in St. John, 17th of March 1845, were as follows:—

Reverend John Turnbull, Minister of the Gospel at Blackville and Nelson.

Reverend Andrew Stevens, Minister at St. Stephen.

Reverend Andrew Donald, Minister at Hammond River, Norton, Salt Springs.

The foregoing reference to the Disruption is of interest to the Presbyterians of St. Stephen inasmuch as their minister at the time was one of the three who gave visibility to the movement in this Province.

Happily all the breaches in the great Presbyterian family of the Dominion have long since been healed.

THE FIRST CHURCH

From Sabbath to Sabbath, as the congregations that dot this land from Atlantic to Pacific assemble in the Sanctuary to worship their fathers' God, they can sing from the heart:

"We are not divided, all one body we—
One in hope and doctrine, one in charity."



The First Church.

There being no building in St. Stephen, at this time, suitable for Church services, the feeling was renewed and fresh enthusiasm aroused to erect a church.

Accordingly the Presbyterians, and others friendly to the undertaking, united in a society of which Mrs. Stevens, mother of the Reverend Andrew Stevens and Judge Stevens, was the president and leading spirit.

Associated with her were Mrs. J. Marks, Mrs. J. Frink, Mrs. J. Upton and Mrs. W. T. Rose.

The first effort was the holding of a Bazaar, a novelty in those days, and to which liberal contributions were made, on 21st August 1845. Financially it was considered a great success.

The amount of money received in this way, in addition to several generous subscriptions, was deemed sufficient to justify the endeavor to erect a church edifice.

During the building of the church much stimulus was given to the people by the frequent ministerial services of that distinguished Irishman, the late Rev. Dr. Irvine, Pastor of St. John's Church, St. John, N. B.

Among the influential men in the enterprise of building this first church were Aaron Upton, Alexander Campbell, Samuel McGowan, William Murdock,

THE FIRST CHURCH

John Campbell, Robert Clark and his brothers, John and Frances Courtney, Thomas Laughlin, Captain Hutton, Samuel and William Gilmore, William Owen, and his brothers, Dr. Dugald Blair, and James G. (Judge) Stevens; all of whom are now dead.

Thus the work progressed. A suitable structure was erected on a site purchased from Ninian Lindsay back of the Moore building. This site cost £100 sterling and a deed conveying the same to James G. Stevens, Barrister-at-law, and Samuel M. Gillmore, in trust, was executed on the 26th November 1850.

This building was opened for public worship in 1850 and for ten years accommodated the Presbyterians of the community.

For eight years after the departure of the Reverend Andrew Stevens there was no settled minister. During the summer, and frequently the winter, the congregation obtained the services of students.

At this time Mr. J. G. (the late Judge) Stevens devoted much of his time and energy in conducting Sabbath services and keeping the Sunday School in operation. That these services were appreciated is evidenced by the address and presentation made to him on 12th February 1852. The address was read by Dugald Blair, Esq., M.D. In it he said

"I know that I express the feelings of the congregation generally when I say it is a subject of uncommon pleasure that we are enabled to give you a token of the estimation in which you are held by us for these labours. To you in an especial manner are we indebted for the building of our sanctuary and the growing interest in the same . . . We do not wish you to receive the token which we are now about to offer you, as a compensation for your exertions amongst us . . . but the expression of our gratitude, etc."

He then presented Mr. Stevens with a beautiful gold watch, which is still in the possession of Miss G. B. Stevens.

Judge (then Mr.) Stevens in his reply acknowledged

THE FIRST CHURCH

ing their kindness and appreciation of his services referred to the exacting demands made upon his time and strength during the erection of the church—but would only take a small part of the credit to himself—“We must not overlook the co-operation of my valued friend Mr. Samuel Gilmor, the unwearied and steady interest he has ever manifested in our congregation, etc.”

He referred to the labours of the Reverend Robert Irvine and the valuable suggestions he had given from time to time.

He concluded a most felicitous reply, couched in beautiful language, by expressing the hope that the “Head” of the church would speedily send a Pastor, and praying “May we as the children of one family, travellers to one eternal home, be translated in due time from the Zion below, to the Sanctuary above, where all sectarian differences will be merged and forgotten and the lovely religion of Christ shine and be felt in all its divine and glorious nature.”



Rev. William Elder, M.A., LL.D.

Early in 1854 the Reverend William Elder accepted a call from the congregation and was duly inducted.

Whilst several ministers laboured here before Mr. Elder he was the first to be regularly called and inducted into the pastoral oversight of the congregation, and the first to minister in the new church.

Shortly after his induction the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was first administered in the new building on the 27th day of August 1854.

In those days the communion season was a time of heart searching. Men and women were brought face to face with the problems of life and destiny. Great emphasis was laid upon the necessity of living a consistent christian life and of being at peace with God through Jesus Christ the only mediator.

As an evidence of the solemnity that surrounded the celebration of the Lord's Supper, we have only to consider the importance of the following minute which is extracted from the records of a meeting of session held on Sunday afternoon, August 20th, 1854:—

“The matter of services previous and preparatory to the dispensation of the Lord's Supper was considered; it was determined that Thursday next be observed as a day of Fasting and Humiliation when Divine Service would be held in the church, forenoon and evening.—Rev. Mr. Turnbull to officiate. It was also deemed expedient to have services in the forenoon on Saturday next, and the usual service on Monday after communion.”

Naturally members of the present congregation will be interested in this first communion and desirous of

knowing the names of those who first communicated. The following extract from the session records of August 30th, 1854, will speak for itself:—

“The Lord’s Supper having been administered in this church on the last Lord’s day for the first time, the Session deemed it proper to record their heartfelt gratitude to God for the measure of countenance, refreshment, and encouragement, which they believed not a few of the people of God experienced on that occasion.

The Reverend John Turnbull, who was recently inducted at St. James, assisted on this occasion, preaching on Thursday, on Saturday, on Sabbath evening, and serving at two of the three tables at which communicants sat down. The number of communicants was about seventy-five, the names of whom are as follows:—

John Courtney, Duncan Stewart, Robert Clark, and James G. Stevens—Elders.

Agnes Courtney, Mary Hutchinson, Jane Courtney, George Smiley, Elizabeth Horsford, Elizabeth Murdock, Elizabeth Stevens, Jane Clark, Margaret Clark, Mary Jane Clark, Agnes Laughlin, Catherine Stewart, Martha Ann Campbell, Jessie Campbell, Jane Owen, Mary Jane McWilliams, Richard Stewart, Catherine Lemmon, John Herbeson, Mary J. Courtney, John Morrison, Margaret McDowell, John King, jr., Margaret Ellis, Judith McWhirter, Mrs. Gillis, Jane Boyd, (wife of George), all of St. Stephen.

Hugh Morris, Daniel Morris, and Janet Morris—from the Ledge.

Stewart Busby, Mrs. Busby, and James Roy—Milltown.

Mrs. John Boyd—Little Ridge.

Sarah Murray, Christy Cousins, John A. Fraser, Jane Fraser, Simon McKenzie, Mrs. McKenzie, Mrs. Frank Washburn, Mrs. Hooper—from Calais.

John King, Thomas Robinson, Jane Robinson, Elizabeth Robinson, Jane Hitchings Moore, Mrs. Hugh

REV. WILLIAM ELDER, M.A., LL.D.

Pinkerton, Mrs. John Fleming, James Evans, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Pinkerton, Senior, Mrs. Stewart, Robert King—from Baillie Settlement.

John McCaskill, Peter Morrison and wife, John McKenzie and wife, Catherine Campbell, Miss Clarke, Samuel Morrison, Mrs. Curry, and Joseph King—of Scotch Ridge.

The following list contains the names of persons, who had applied for membership, and were received by the Session as members but who did not communicate viz:—

Martha Smiley, John Clark, Isabella Clark, David Clark, Henry Clark, Thomas Laughlin, Robert Laughlin, Elizabeth Laughlin, Mary Ann Fullerton, John Campbell, Robert Owen, Mary Owen, John Erskine, John Boyd, C. A. Boyd, James Robinson, Sarah Robinson, and Francis Courtney.”

As we consider the foregoing lists we are reminded of our own mortality. Of those who communicated, or were received at that first communion service in the first Kirk erected to the glory of God in the town of St. Stephen, only one survives. That person is Mrs. Mary Jane Clark, widow of the late Henry Clark, who has now reached the advanced age of 87 years and resides at Moores Mills; a mother in Israel, she is respected by all and admired for her sterling christian character.

The generation then living have given place to their descendants, many of whom have shouldered the burdens laid down by their forefathers, and are now active and zealous members in the church of their fathers.

For nine years the Reverend William Elder faithfully discharged the duties of the ministry in St. Stephen. He demitted the charge on the 30th September 1863, and removed to St. John where he published the Colonial Presbyterian.

Mr. Elder, “brilliant and graceful alike with tongue and pen, scholar, preacher, journalist, orator, states-

REV. WILLIAM ELDER, M.A., LL.D.

man, and gentleman, was a gift from the Irish church."

He was born at Malin, in the County of Donegal, Ireland, July 22nd, 1822. He was educated in Belfast, and afterwards pursued his studies in the Universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh, where he greatly distinguished himself. He took his Divinity course in New College, Edinburgh, and shortly after its completion came to New Brunswick where he engaged for several years in missionary work, until, in 1854, he accepted a unanimous call to the pastorate of the Presbyterian Church, St. Stephen.

After leaving St. Stephen, Dr. Elder devoted his attention to journalism. His powerful pen was always wielded on behalf of the intellectual, moral, social, and industrial interests of the country.

In 1875 Dr. Elder was elected to the Provincial Legislature. There "he possessed great weight, his discriminating mind, vast fund of information, and polished, graceful, oratory gained him the foremost position".

Eventually he was promoted to the Cabinet as Provincial Secretary, where he found ample scope for the exercise of his varied talents.

He died very suddenly at his home in St. John on the 23rd July 1883.

He was stricken down in the midst of his usefulness. He filled a large place in the public life of New Brunswick and indeed of the Dominion. Whilst his name will always be enrolled among the great and good men of the Province, none will be more ready to pay a tribute of respect to his memory than the Presbyterians of St. Stephen whom he served so faithfully.

The New Church.

During Dr. Elder's ministry the congregation rapidly increased in numbers and influence. It soon became necessary either to enlarge the old, or erect a new building.

On the mind of the congregation being obtained, it was decided to sell the old building and erect a new edifice.

The outcome was the erection of the present beautiful church edifice which is esteemed by all to be a gem of church architecture.

Through the exertions of Dr. Elder, the contributions towards its erection were considerably augmented by subscriptions obtained from parties in the Old Country, which he visited for that purpose.

The new place of worship thus provided for the congregation, was set apart for the worship of God on Sabbath the 11th day of November 1860.

The Reverend John Turnbull, Moderator of the Synod, preached in the forenoon; the Reverend Alexander Stirling of Fredericton in the afternoon, and the Reverend S. H. Keeler of the Congregational Church, Calais, Me., in the evening.

According to the Records the services on this occasion were "Solemn, appropriate, and largely attended."

Subsequently, in 1863, the old church building was sold to Mr. James Dow for the sum of \$1000.00 and used by him for a school house. It has since been burned down.

Succeeding Ministers.

REVEREND ROBERT MOODIE.

After Dr. Elder's departure the congregation were not long in deciding upon a successor, as the following minute extracted from the records of the trustees will show:

"At a meeting of the trustees of the congregation of the St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church held in the Church Building at St. Stephen, present James G. Stevens, Robert Clark, James King, David Alexander and John Kirk, being all the trustees at present holding office as such trustees—on the Nineteenth day of October A. D. 1863, a call to the Reverend Robert Moodie having been agreed to be given by the said congregation to become the Pastor of the said congregation, it was unanimously resolved by the parties aforesaid as such trustees for and on behalf of said congregation, that the sum of One hundred pounds per annum be paid the said Robert Moodie as such pastor during the continuance of his pastoral office in said church, should he see fit to accept the said call and enter on his duties as said Pastor of congregation aforesaid."

The call was accepted, but it would seem Mr. Moodie was never regularly inducted owing to the conduct of the Reverend John Turnbull, the Moderator, in withdrawing from the meeting of Presbytery which met in St. Stephen for the purpose of inducting Mr. Moodie into the Pastoral oversight of the congregation, as a protest against its use of instrumental music.

Mr. Moodie however remained in the congregation, and, regularly or irregularly, discharged the duties of

SUCCEEDING MINISTERS

the ministry. The last recorded meeting of Session over which he presided as Moderator was held on the 20th November 1864.

REVEREND P. M. MORRISON

The next minister to have charge of the congregation was the Reverend P. M. Morrison, who was ordained at St. Stephen September 1865 and inducted into the pastoral oversight of the congregation.

Mr. Morrison's ministry in St. Stephen was brief. He accepted a call to Bridgewater, Nova Scotia, and removed there in November 1867.

He was called to Dartmouth in June 1877, and remained there until 1886, when he was appointed agent of the Eastern Section of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. He retained this position until his death which occurred at Chatham, N. B., in July 1899.

Mr. Morrison was a trusted servant of the church, and was honored by the Senate of the Presbyterian College, Halifax, which conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity at its Convocation in 1895.

REVEREND ROBERT WILSON.

The church was apparently without a settled Pastor for several years after Mr. Morrison's resignation.

During the vacancy, the Reverend William Millen was Moderator pro. tem. of the Session. In addition to the services occasionally given by him pulpit supply was obtained from the Reverends J. Bennett, Mr. Darling, Mr. Lawson, and John Home.

Eventually, after a vacancy of almost five years, the congregation extended a call to the Reverend Robert Wilson, which was accepted.

At a meeting of the trustees held on January 15th,

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1872, Jas. G. Stevens, David Alexander, James Dow, and Robert Clark being present, it was resolved:

"That in consideration of the acceptance by the Reverend Robert Wilson of the pastoral charge of the congregation the salary to be paid during his pastorate shall be the sum of eight hundred dollars per year."

The Reverend Mr. Wilson was inducted on the 16th April 1872.

Mr. Wilson was a native of Dumfrieshire, Scotland, born there 18th October 1810.

He was educated at Glasgow and later came to New Brunswick, being afterwards called to the oversight of the Congregational Church at Sheffield on the St. John River, where he remained for fifteen years, prior to being called to St. Stephen.

Mr. Wilson remained Pastor of the Presbyterian Church, St. Stephen, till the summer of 1875 when he removed to Montreal, where he discharged the duties of City Missionary for six years.

His last work was conducting service in Erskine Church. After returning to his home he was taken suddenly ill, and died after four days of sickness in Montreal on the 18th July 1881.

His body was brought to St. John, and a funeral service conducted in St. David's Church. His remains were afterwards interred in Sheffield, the scene of his former ministry.

REV. W. P. BEGG.

During the vacancy that ensued, the Reverend James Quinn was Moderator pro tem of Session. The vacancy, however, was not very prolonged.

A call was made out in favor of the Reverend W. P. Begg on or before the 3rd November 1875, for, on that date, there was a meeting of the trustees when it was agreed to guarantee to the Reverend W. P. Begg

SUCCEEDING MINISTERS

the annual stipend of \$700.00 and free use of manse, in view of his acceptance of the call.

Mr. Begg accepted the call and was regularly inducted 25th November 1875.

He remained with the congregation till June (?) 1880 when he resigned and went to Scotland. After remaining there for some time he returned to Canada, and later removed to the United States of America. At present Mr. Begg is minister of a church in Parkersburg, Iowa, U. S. A.

Dr. Begg is a man of scholarly attainments, a good preacher, and a writer of several works including "The Development of Taste."

REV. A. T. LOVE.

The congregation was without a regular pastor for about one year after Mr. Begg's resignation. During this time the Reverend Mr. Sutherland was Moderator pro tem of Session.

At length the congregation decided to extend a call to the Reverend Andrew T. Love, B. A., accompanied by a guarantee of \$800.00 per annum.

Mr. Love accepted the call and was inducted on the 6th July 1881. He had been previously ordained on the 29th May but this was his first regular pastorate.

Mr. Love was an excellent preacher, a faithful pastor, and greatly beloved by his parishioners.

The members of the congregation were much perplexed when, after having been their pastor for about three years and a half, it was rumored that a call was about to be presented from St. Andrew's Church, Quebec. The call was ultimately issued and presented to Mr. Love for his consideration.

Every effort was put forth by the congregation to induce him to remain. At a meeting of the trustees held on the 25th November 1884, after having reviewed the work of the Reverend Mr. Love and the efficient ser-

SUCCEEDING MINISTERS

vices he had rendered to the congregation, it was resolved:

“That we cannot part with Mr. Love without the deepest regret, and that in case he can honorably decline the call from St. Andrew’s Church, Quebec, we increase his salary to twelve hundred dollars per annum.”

From the above it is evident the congregation were prepared to give tangible expression to their appreciation of Mr. Love’s ministrations, an expression which seems all the greater when we consider that twenty-five years have elapsed since then, with a steady improvement in the financial position of the congregation, and yet the amount promised to Mr. Love should he remain has never been given to any succeeding incumbent.

The Reverend Mr. Love accepted the call from Quebec. The pastoral tie in the St. Stephen’s congregation was dissolved in December 1884, and he was immediately thereafter inducted into his new charge, where he still labors to the satisfaction of his congregation, and the advantage of the city of Quebec.

REV. GODFREY SHORE.

The Reverend Mr. Sutherland was again appointed Moderator pro. tem. of the Session, but the vacancy was of short duration.

A unanimous call was presented by the congregation to the Reverend Godfrey Shore, which was accepted; and on the 14th May, 1885, after a vacancy of less than six months, Mr. Shore was inducted into the pastoral oversight of the congregation.

With fidelity and zeal he performed the duties of his ministry in St. Stephen until in July 1890, he accepted a call from the First Presbyterian Church in Carleton, St. John, N. B., and was duly translated by the Presbytery of St. John.

SUCCEEDING MINISTERS

REV. JOHN ANDERSON.

The Reverend A. Gunn was then appointed Moderator pro. tem. of the Session.

After a vacancy of eight months the congregation extended a call to the Reverend John Anderson, who accepted the same and was regularly inducted on the 3rd April 1891.

Mr. Anderson was a thoughtful preacher, a faithful pastor, and greatly beloved by the people.

He resigned the charge in 1894.

REV. A. A. MACKENZIE.

The pulpit having been declared vacant, the congregation proceeded to hear candidates, which issued in a unanimous call to the Reverend A. A. MacKenzie. It was accepted, and the induction service took place on 6th December 1894.

Mr. MacKenzie was a distinguished student, having obtained the degree of Doctor of Science (D. Sc.) from Queen's University whilst minister in St. Stephen. A man of wide culture, and a brilliant preacher, his ministrations in the sanctuary were largely attended.

Dr. MacKenzie resigned the pastoral oversight of the congregation, and the relationships were dissolved at a meeting of the Presbytery of St. John held in St. John 21st December 1900.

REV. A. S. MORTON.

At the same meeting of Presbytery the Reverend F. W. Murray, then Pastor of the Presbyterian Church, Milltown, was appointed interim Moderator of Session, and, after conducting public worship, declared the pulpit vacant on the 30th December 1900.

Former Ministers



Top row, from left to right—Revs. Andrew Stevens, William Elder, M.A., LL.D.; P. M. Morrison, D.D.; Robert Moodie (above), Robert Wilson (below), W. P. Begg, D.D.; A. T. Love, B.A. Bottom row—Revs. Godfrey Shore, John Anderson, A. A. Mackenzie, D.Sc.; A. S. Morton, M.A., B.D.; Gordon Dickie, B.A.

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After being without a Pastor for five months, and having heard a number of candidates in the meantime, a unanimous call was extended to the Reverend Arthur S. Morton, M.A., B.D., minister at Fairville, St. John, who accepted the same, and was inducted on the 6th June 1901.

Mr. Morton was born in Trinidad, B. W. I., where his father was missionary. He received his elementary education there, and later proceeded to Edinburgh University, from which institution he received the degrees of M.A., and B.D.

Whilst minister in St. Stephen he passed through the "deep waters" of affliction, having been bereaved of his wife, which affliction he bore with christian fortitude.

Mr. Morton was a man of refined ideas and possessed the scholarly instinct. He was a faithful pastor and greatly beloved by the congregation, especially the young, with whom he was a great favorite.

He was pastor of the church until the last of July 1904, when, having been appointed to the lectureship in Homiletics and Church History, in the Presbyterian College, Halifax, the pastoral tie was dissolved by the Presbytery of St. John, and the Reverend J. C. Robertson, of Milltown, appointed interim Moderator of Session during the vacancy.

REV. GORDON DICKIE.

On the 24th November 1904, after a vacancy of four months, a call was presented to the Reverend Gordon Dickie, M.A., then assistant to Reverend Chalmers Jack of Sydney, C. B., who accepted the same, and was duly inducted.

Mr. Dickie assumed the pastorate highly recommended.

He was a graduate of Dalhousie University and the

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Presbyterian College, Halifax, N. S., later taking a post graduate course in Germany.

As Pastor of this church Mr. Dickie was highly esteemed and large congregations waited upon his pulpit ministrations.

Much to the regret of the congregation Mr. Dickie accepted a call to St. Stephen's Church, St. John, and was translated by the Presbytery of St. John, October 1906, after a pastorate of less than two years.

REV. L. B. GIBSON.

The Reverend W. W. Rainnie, of Milltown, N. B., was then appointed Moderator pro. tem. of Session during the vacancy, which lasted about eight months.

The present pastor, Reverend L. B. Gibson, M.A., B.D., is a native of Ireland, where he received his literary and university training.

Coming to Canada he graduated in theology from the Presbyterian College, Halifax, and Knox College, Toronto, where he received the degree of Bachelor of Divinity.

He was ordained in Glassville, N. B., 4th May 1904, and after a post-graduate course in Glasgow, Scotland, where he was also assistant in Blackfriar's Church, he accepted a call to this church, and was inducted on the 23rd May 1907.



The Eldership.

Immediately after the induction of the Reverend William Elder the congregation elected to the eldership John Courtney, Duncan Stewart, Robert Clark, and James G. Stevens, who were ordained and solemnly set apart to the office of ruling elders on Monday evening, 26th June, 1854.

The next election of elders was held 7th January, 1877, when William Murray and John Mudge were elected. They were ordained 4th February, 1877.

W. H. Clark and J. K. Laffin were elected to the eldership on 4th October, 1885, and ordained on the 5th October, following.

James Piper was ordained July 29th, 1888.

Hugh Morrison was inducted on 7th February, 1890, having been previously an elder in the Scotch Ridge Church.

P. G. MacFarlane and Edward Irvine were set apart to the eldership 10th July, 1898.

The last election of elders took place on Sunday, 21st July, 1907, when Henry Laughlin, Thos. R. Speedy, George W. Dinsmore and Thos. W. Humphrey were declared elected. They were subsequently ordained and inducted on the 4th August, 1907.

The Eldership has been always a distinctive feature of the Presbyterian Church, and this congregation has been wisely guided in its selection of elders.

Space does not permit an extended reference to the devoted elders who have served this church from the beginning. We will allow the "records" to speak, and will pass in review the elders of the church in the order of their demission or death.

THE ELDERSHIP

The church did not enjoy very long the services of Duncan Stewart and John Courtney.

There is no record of Mr. Stewart having attended any meeting of Session after 18th May, 1856. He died in 1870.

Mr. John Courtney attended the meetings of Session regularly and discharged the duties of an elder till 7th December, 1860. He was also interested in the Sunday School. Afterwards, he removed from St. Stephen, and has long since passed over to the majority.

Mr. Robert Clark, from the date of his ordination till his death, was a tower of strength to the congregation. He served in many capacities. He took care of the property, discharged the duties of treasurer, and for a time was Superintendent of the Sunday School.

He departed this life on the 18th August, 1883, being in the eldership over twenty-nine years.

Regarding the high esteem in which he was held by the congregation we will allow the following minute, extracted from the Session records of 26th August, 1883, to speak for itself:

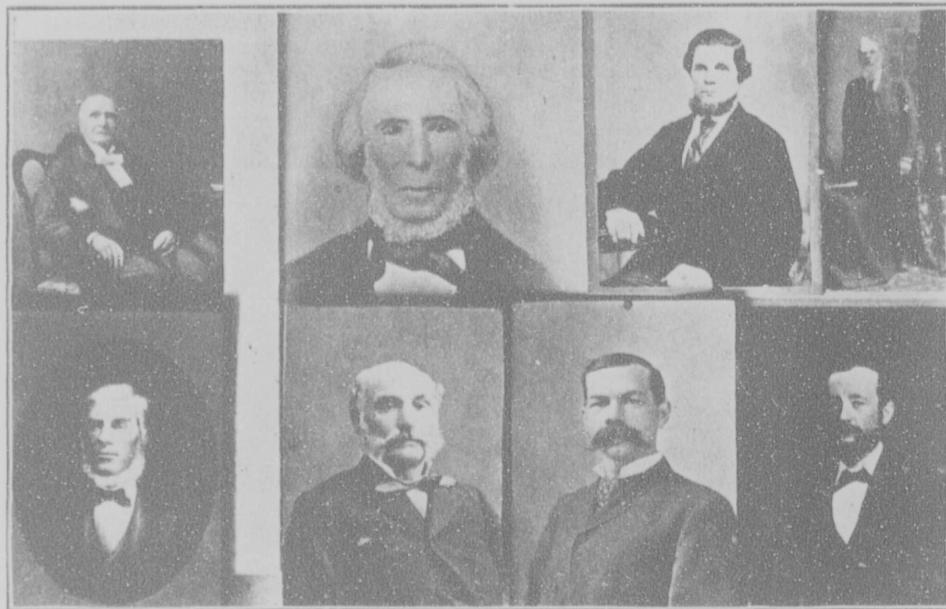
"This Session desires to record their deep sense of the loss they have sustained in being deprived, in the all wise providence of God, of one of their members, who sustained a prominent position in the Eldership of the Presbyterian Church, and whose judgment and counsel in all the deliberations of the Session were peculiarly marked by sound discretion and zeal for the good of the church and the glory of God.

The Session also desire to record their expression of the high christian character of the deceased, and his unwearied and constant endeavors to promote the interests of the church in this place with which, from its first formation, he was so intimately indentified".

WILLIAM MURRAY.

Mr. William Murray, who died at sea, September, 1888, was a Scotchman, who retained in his adopted

Deceased Elders



Top row, left to right—His Honor Judge Jas. G. Stevens; Messrs. John Courtney, John Mudge, J. K. Laffin.
Bottom row—Messrs. Robert Clark, Hugh Morrison, William H. Clark, William Murray.

THE ELDERSHIP

country the veneration for the Presbyterian Church which is so characteristic of all who have been brought up in the land of John Knox.

The following resolution anent his death was adopted at a meeting of Session, 2nd November, 1888:

"Whereas William Murray, one of the Elders of this Church, ordained on the 4th day of February, A. D. 1877, departed this life in the month of September last, having died at sea whilst on his passage from Scotland to this Province:

The Session desire to record their deep sense of the loss they have sustained in being thus deprived in the all wise providence of God, of one of their members, who for many years held a prominent position in the church, and whose liberality and generous aid in all matters connected with its well being was a marked characteristic of his attachment to the same; and by whose decease the commercial community of Saint Stephen have sustained a loss of one of their most enterprising and useful merchants."

HUGH MORRISON.

The next break occurred in the Session April 29th, 1892, when Mr. Hugh Morrison, originally an Elder in St. James Church, but having moved to Milltown, was inducted as an Elder in St. Stephen, withdrew from the Session of this church to resume his connection with St. James Church.

W. H. CLARK.

Mr. William H. Clark, for many years occupied a prominent and influential position in the affairs of the congregation, both as a member of the Board of Trustees and the Session.

He was indefatigable in his efforts to promote the welfare of the Sunday School, the Prayer Meeting, and everything connected with the church.

That his efforts were fully appreciated the following minute of Session of 20th February, 1898, will show:

THE ELDERSHIP

“Whereas W. H. Clark, one of the Elders of this church, ordained as such 25th October, 1885, departed this life on the 11th February instant:

This Session desire to record their sense of loss they have sustained in being deprived of one of their members, who, since the time of his having assumed the duties of the Eldership upon his election thereto, sustained a prominent position as elder of the Presbyterian Church in this place, and faithfully and well performed the duties of such:—

The Session also desire to record their expression of the consistent christian character of the deceased and his constant endeavours to promote the welfare and interests of the church in this place, and his liberality towards same, as well also his unwearied efforts towards the promotion of the moral and religious good of the community”.

J. K. LAFLIN.

The church further sustained a great loss when the King and Head of the church called Joseph K. Laffin to the service of the Upper Sanctuary. He was a man whose greatest joy was in serving his church as the following minute taken from the Session records of 5th September 1902, will show:

“Whereas Joseph K. Laffin, one of the elders of this Church and Session, ordained on the 25th June, 1885, departed this life on the 10th July, 1902:—

The Session desire to record their deep sense of the loss they have sustained in being thus deprived, in the all wise providence of God, of one of their number, who, for many years, held a prominent position in the Session and Church, and Sabbath School in connection therewith, being for many years the Superintendent of same; and whose zeal in all matters connected with the welfare of the church was a marked characteristic of his attachment to the same, and by whose decease the congregation have been deprived of a useful and exemplary member”.

THE ELDERSHIP

JOHN MUDGE.

The next member of Session to be called hence was Mr. John Mudge. He was a man of sterling character, and consistently devoted to the traditions of our beloved church.

At a meeting of Session held on the 27th May, 1904, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

“Whereas, Mr. John Mudge, one of the elders of this church, ordained as such on the 4th February, 1877, departed this life on the 27th day of April last past:

This Session desire to record their appreciation of his life and christian work during the term of his eldership, he having also for several years acted as Superintendent of the Sabbath School in connection with the church, ever active and zealous in the life and work of the church, and ever bearing himself with christian zeal and simplicity of heart and conduct; and whose deliberations as a member of the Session were ever marked by a sincere desire for the good of the church and the glory of God.”

JAS. G. STEVENS.

His Honor, James G. Stevens, Judge of the Charlotte County Court, was for sixty-four years a devoted member of this church, having come to this place in 1840, in company with the Reverend Andrew Stevens, who was the first resident Presbyterian minister in St. Stephen. After the departure of the Reverend Andrew Stevens, and when the church was without a settled Pastor, as has been referred to in a previous place, Judge Stevens, then Mr. Stevens, supplied the pulpit for several years.

He was ordained to the Eldership in this church 23th June, 1854, from which time until his death on the 16th October, 1906, he took a foremost place in the counsels of the church. During all these years, also, he was continuously a representative elder in the church

THE ELDERSHIP

courts, where he was highly respected and esteemed. Whether in the Presbytery, the Synod, or the General Assembly, he had few equals and no superior.

At a meeting of Session on October 30th, 1906, the following resolution was adopted:

"Whereas, it has pleased our Heavenly Father to translate from the Church Militant to the Church Triumphant, His Honor, Judge Stevens, this Session desire to place on record their deep sense of the loss the congregation has sustained in the passing away of one who took such a great interest in all departments of the church's work, and who labored so zealously and faithfully, for many years, to guide this church through its troubles and trials, to its present position in the community.

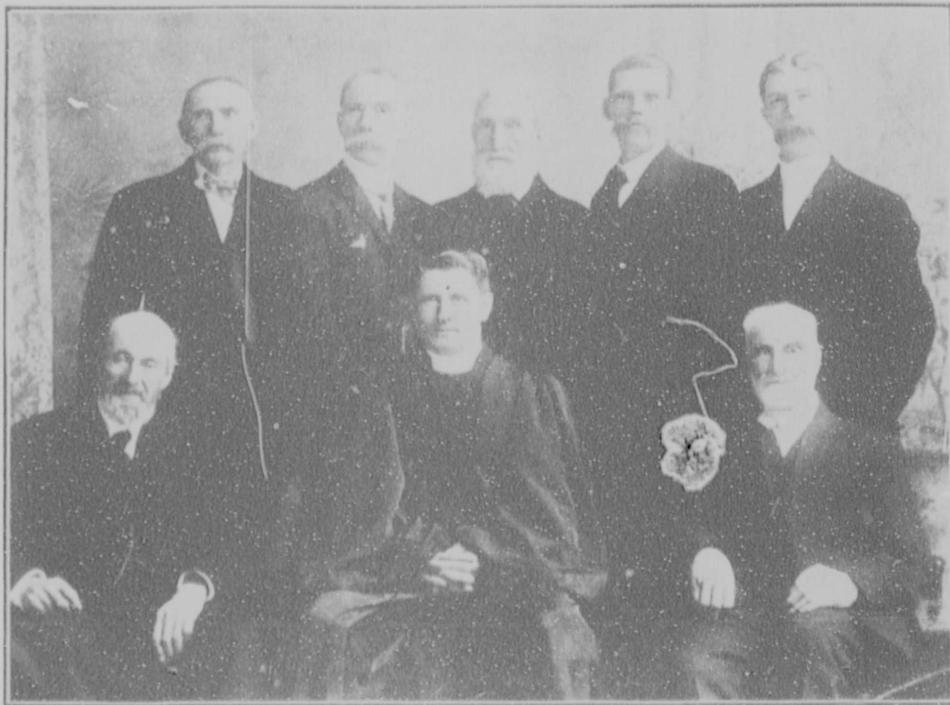
Looked up to as a pillar of strength in the hour of trouble, he was the father of our Session. As a representative elder in the Church Courts and as the Session Clerk for many years, he cheerfully discharged the arduous duties laid upon him by his fellow members in the Session and was ever ready to assist by counsel and advice in the difficult matters which often came before him.

Being one of the founders of the Presbyterian Church in St. Stephen, the Session feel that the present condition of our church, due to his zeal, integrity, and worth, is the best memorial possible to the memory of our departed brother".

The funeral was one of the largest and most representative ever seen in St. Stephen; and in the evening a memorial service was held in the church, presided over by the Reverend Gordon Dickie. The principal address was given by the Reverend Frank Baird, Moderator of Presbytery, in which he paid a tribute to his character and work, and concluded with the following words:

"In so far as Judge Stevens, by precept or example, showed that there were nobler things than wealth, in so far as he was a voice in the wilderness on behalf of religion, and learning, which is religion's handmaid, in so far as he brought here Scottish characteristics and

Present Session.



Top row, left to right—Messrs. Thos. R. Speedy, P. G. MacFarlane, M.A., Jas. Piper, Geo. W. Dinmore, Thos. W. Humphrey.
Bottom row—Mr. Edward Irvin, Rev. L. R. Gibson, Mr. Henry Laughlin.

Mr. Piper, Mr. Irvine and Principal MacFarlane have been Elders for many years and are greatly respected.

three years ago. in the congregation, having been received over fifty-selves. He is the oldest surviving male communicant congregation in honoring him were honoring themselves. He is the oldest surviving male communicant that in electing Mr. Laughlin, even at this time, the man. I mention this, not to discriminate, but to show formed the duties of an Elder since he was a young not an Elder till this recent time, he has virtually performed the present Pastor. Whilst Mr. Henry Laughlin was The four latter were elected since the induction of rey, George W. Binsmore, and Thomas R. Speedy.

Their names are: James Piper, Edward Irvine, P. G. MacFarlane, Henry Laughlin, Thomas W. Humph-

with a wise and devoted Session. In the good providence of God we are still favoured

"God buries his workers but carries on His work." they died. which they loved so well, and in the faith of which deavour to promote the welfare of our beloved church, much, we should try to emulate their virtues and en-vants of God and the Church, to whom we owe so-As we call to mind the names of these honored ser-

ended; "Drop the pen, close the book, for the long day is A grand rounded life, loved and honored he died, Not often is witnessed a sunset so splendid.

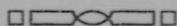
And our tears to his memory, are mingled with pride." ended; "Drop the pen, close the book, for the long day is

congregation, was placed upon his casket: The following tribute "In Memoriam" from the pen of Captain John McMullen, a respected member of the

far shall succeeding generations of patriotic and Chris-tian Canadians continue to honor him in the days to come." culture, that far do we lament him to-day, and that

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

In Mr. Humphrey, Mr. Dinsmore, and Mr. Speedy, the congregation is possessed of Elders, who have fully justified their election.



The Sunday School.

The Sunday School was organized by the late Judge Stevens in 1850. Since that time it has been continuously in operation.

The first office-bearers were:

Superintendent, James G. Stevens.

Teachers: John Courtney, Mrs. John Courtney, Mrs. Henry Clark, Robert Owen, Miss Jane Alexander, Mr. Henry Laughlin, and his mother, Mrs. Thomas Laughlin.

Only two of the foregoing are living. Mrs. Henry Clark, and Mr. Henry Laughlin, are still with us and participated in our Jubilee Celebrations. Long may they be spared!

During all the intervening years since the school was first organized, many devoted men and women have given freely of their time for the spiritual education of the young. The writer has no means of obtaining all their names, and will simply mention those who have successfully acted in the capacity of Superintendent. Their names are, James G. Stevens, Robert Clark, Thomas Corbett, David Main, David Little, William Hutchinson, Joseph K. Laffin, and Principal P. G. MacFarlane, who is at present holding office.

The names of those associated with Mr. MacFarlane in the Sunday School are as follows:

George W. Dinsmore, Secty-Treas.

Thos. W. Humphrey, Librarian.

Sunday School Officers and Teachers.



Top row, left to right—Misses Elsie Lawson, Margaret MacFarlane, Annie A. Young, Mr. P. G. MacFarlane, Misses Celia Clark, Josephine Campbell, Edith Stevens. Middle row—Mr. F. W. Humphrey, Miss Emma Robinson, Mrs. R. D. Ross, Misses Grace B. Stevens, Mary McWhirry, Katherine Clarke. Bottom row—Misses Ora Humphrey, Leola McWha, Rev. L. B. Gibson, Miss Myrile Lowry.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Teachers—

Junior Department: Misses A. Young, Myrtle Lowry, Margaret MacFarlane.

Intermediate Department: Mrs. R. D. Ross, Misses Mary McWhirly, A. McGeachy, Elsie Lawson, Celia Clark, Josephine Campbell, Leola McWha, Edith Stevens, Ora Humphrey, Katherine Clark, Emma Robinson.

Bible Classes: Miss Grace B. Stevens and Rev. L. B. Gibson.

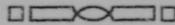
In connection with the Sunday School, the "Home Department" has been recently organized, and is rendering efficient service.

The officers in charge of it are:

Superintendent: Mrs. J. K. Laffin.

Assistants: Mrs. Crilley and Mrs. McWilliam.

Our church has reason to be proud of the officers and teachers connected with the Sunday School. They are exceedingly faithful in the discharge of their duties, and regular in attendance.



The Missionary Society.

The Woman's Missionary Society was organized by the Reverend Godfrey Shore, on the tenth day of April, 1890, with a membership of twelve; the following officers being elected:

President, Mrs. Shore.

Vice-President, Mrs. Main.

Recording Secretary, Miss Grace B. Stevens.

Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. W. H. Clark.

Treasurer, Mrs. J. K. Laffin.

Auditor, Mrs. King.

By a vote of those present, it was agreed that the District Visiting Society, which had been in existence for some time, should become a part of the newly-formed society. Committees were formed whose duties, amongst others, were:

1. To take charge of the various districts assigned; to visit the sick in the congregation; to help the needy; to report the arrival of new families, and to make known to the Pastor any case where his presence and help were especially required.

2. To organize new auxiliaries.

3. To write a letter each month to another auxiliary, and to a missionary in the foreign field.

4. To arrange the programme for a missionary prayer meeting each month, when information respecting the various mission fields would be given, and prayers offered for the spread of the Gospel.

5. To arrange entertainments for the reduction of the church debt.

THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY

These duties were faithfully discharged, and the membership during the first year was increased from twelve to thirty-one.

Four new auxiliaries and a mission band were organized by this society before the close of the second year; and for the reduction of the church debt, almost \$520 were raised, by means of the "Cent-a-day" scheme, and three entertainments.

The Society was organized as Home and Foreign, and the funds raised by means of mite boxes, membership fees, and collections at the auxiliary meetings are divided equally between the two fields.

The following are the names of those who have been President of the Society:

Mrs. G. Shore, 1890; Mrs. D. Main, 1891; Mrs. J. Anderson, 1892; Miss Grace B. Stevens, 1894; Mrs. J. K. Laffin, 1895; Mrs. John McWha, 1898; Miss G. B. Stevens, 1899; Mrs. J. K. Laffin, 1905.

Those who have filled the position of Secretary are:

Miss G. B. Stevens, 1890; Mrs. R. D. Ross, 1892; Mrs. A. Cameron, 1894; Mrs. James McWha, 1898; Miss Emma Robinson, 1900; Miss M. Alexander, 1904; Miss T. Kirk, 1905; Miss E. Robinson, 1908; Mrs. W. H. Clark, Cor. Sec., 1896-1897.

The members of this Society have taken a very important part in the work of the St. John Presbyterial; those who have filled offices in the Presbyterial being:

President, Mrs. D. Main and Miss G. B. Stevens.

Secretary, Miss G. B. Stevens, Miss Mabel McMullen, and Miss Alice Crilley.

Secretary Young People's Work, Mrs. R. D. Ross.

Perhaps more papers have been written for the Presbyterial by members of this auxiliary than by any other, including the following: Mrs. Main, "The King's Business." Mrs. W. H. Clark, "How to Interest the Uninterested." Mrs. James McWha, "Systematic Giving." Miss McMullen, "Soldiers of the King." Miss Ste-

THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY

vens, "Necessary Qualifications for a Successful Missionary Worker." "Are Mission Bands Necessary?", "Importance of Mission Bands." Mrs. R. D. Ross, "How to Interest the Boys." Miss Crilley, "An Ideal Band." Miss J. Campbell, "Systematic Giving." Miss Celia Clark, "Our Mission Bands."

Contributed articles have also been printed in the Message, and two Leaflets have been added to the Missionary Publications by a member of the auxiliary.

Maps of the different Mission Fields have been made and supplied to many auxiliaries by Mrs. W. H. Clark.

From the foregoing it is evident the Missionary Society has been active and enthusiastic during all the years it has been in existence.

At present it is in a flourishing condition, and continues to take a deep interest in the missionary activities of the church.

The office bearers are:

Miss Grace B. Stevens, Honorary President.

Mrs. J. K. Laffin, President.

Mrs. L. B. Gibson, Vice-President.

Miss Annie Young, Treasurer.

Miss Emma Robinson, Secretary.

Mrs. Crilley, Leaflet Secretary.

In connection with foregoing society there is a Mission Band, divided into Senior and Junior Departments, which is doing excellent service among the young of the congregation.

Those in charge of the Band at present are:

President, Miss Elsie Lawson.

Vice-President, Miss Celia Clark.

Secretary, Miss Edith Stevens.

Treasurer, Miss Margaret MacFarlane.

Superintendent of Junior Band, Miss Celia Clark.

Not only has our church manifested a missionary spirit through the existence of an auxiliary, but in a

THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY

more practical way, inasmuch as one of our members is a missionary in Honan.

REV. HAROLD M. CLARK.

The Reverend Harold M. Clark, B. A., son of the late Mr. W. H. Clark, was brought up in our midst and received his early religious impressions in our church.

After graduating from the local high school, he proceeded to Halifax, where he graduated in arts from Dalhousie University, and in Divinity from the Presbyterian College, 1901. Immediately afterwards he was ordained to the ministry, in Doaktown, by the Presbytery of Miramichi. Having early in life heard the Divine voice calling him to service in the regions beyond, he determined to obey.

The way being opened up, he went out under the auspices of the Western Section of our church and landed in Honan, 6th September, 1903, where he has been very successful. He has in the few years of his service passed through "the Shadows," having, after a brief period of married life, been bereaved of his wife, who had already proven herself to be a true help meet.

In his sorrow the congregation has shared, and the prayer of the faithful has been, and will be, that the Head of the Church may ever be his Guide and Comforter.

He is now home on furlough. Already we have had the pleasure of welcoming him home, and hope that as a result of his visit to his native land he will be fully strengthened to resume his work as at the beginning.



Christian Endeavor Society.

A meeting was held in the Elder Memorial Hall, on Monday, 5th November, 1888, for the purpose of organizing a branch of the Y. P. S. C. E.

The Reverend Godfrey Shore occupied the chair, and Mr. F. A. Irvin was elected Secretary of the meeting.

On the motion of Mr. W. H. Clark it was unanimously decided to organize a branch of the foreign society in connection with St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church.

The following officers were duly elected:

President, Mr. J. Robert Polley.

Vice President, Miss Mary McWhirly.

Rec. Secty., Mr. F. A. Irvin.

Corres. Secty., Mr. John Mowatt.

Treasurer, Mr. W. R. McDonald.

Also the usual committees were appointed. Before the meeting adjourned, Mr. J. K. Laffin announced that he would present the Society with one hundred copies of the Constitution.

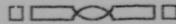
For many years this Society was very active and enlisted the young of the congregation in christian work. Many of our christian workers still look back to the Christian Endeavor Society as that which first afforded them an opportunity of publicly taking some part in a religious service.

It continued in active operation till after the Reverend Mr. Morton entered upon his ministry here, when it was superceded by the "Westminister Guild."

ST. STEPHEN'S CADET COMPANY

The Guild, as far as this congregation is concerned, can never be considered the same success as was the Christian Endeavor Society. It always had a more or less uncertain existence. It was in a dying condition during the ministry of the Reverend Mr. Dickie, and finally expired about a year after the induction of the present Pastor.

There is now no Young People's Society, as such; but the principles of the Christian Endeavor Society are incorporated, to a certain extent, in the regular Wednesday night service. There are "Look Out" and "Devotional Committees," their duties being to secure the attendance of others, and to prepare something on the subject which is always announced by the Pastor on the Sunday preceding. In this way, it is hoped to obtain the advantages of the Christian Endeavor Society without multiplying meetings.



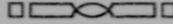
St. Stephen's Cadet Company.

The St. Stephen's Cadet Corps was organized in October, 1907; the object being to promote a healthy, manly spirit among the boys, and to develop their physique.

There is a committee of management, consisting of Mr. James Murray, Chairman; Mr. Alexander Reid, Treasurer; Messrs. J. T. Whitlock, W. W. Inches, A. A. Laflin, and R. B. Gibson.

Through the exertions of the committee, neat regulation uniforms have been obtained for the boys, which add greatly to the appearance of the company.

In this connection too much praise cannot be given to Mr. James Murray, who was the principal mover in



the organization of the company and who, since then, has taken a deep interest in its welfare, being present at nearly all its drills.

The government has freely provided fifty rifles and accoutrements which are kept in a good armory.

With the exception of a few months in the summer, the company meets every Friday night in the Elder Memorial Hall for drill.

Captain (Dr.) Laughlin, of Milltown, has been unremitting in his efforts to drill the boys, and is deservedly very popular among them.

The company was inspected by Captain Du Domaine, of the Royal Canadian Rifles, on November 24th, 1909, and the following is a copy of his report:

"I inspected the boys of St. Stephen's Cadet Corps and was very much pleased by the good showing the boys made at their drill, etc., that all appeared so bright and intelligent, and to all appearance will be a credit to the militia, should they elect to follow up their early military training."

The strength of the company at present is thirty-five, and the officers are:

Captain, Grant McNeill.
 First and Second Lieutenants, Kenneth Murray,
 and James A. Inches.
 Sergeants, Frank Nicholson, Robert Rosborough,
 Ross Melham.

The Trustees.

Whilst there doubtless has been a responsible Board of Management, or Committee of some kind, since 1845, when steps were taken to erect a church, the first Board of Legal Trustees was elected on the 6th July, 1859. This was done "In pursuance of the provisions and requirements of the Act of Assembly, passed the 21st March, 1859."

Since that time the congregation has always enjoyed the services of men, who freely and satisfactorily devoted their time to the management of the temporal affairs of the church.

Those who have successively served at the Board are as follows:

David Alexander, Robert Clark, John Kirk, James King, Hon. Jas. G. Stevens, Andrew McCullough, James Dow, W. H. Clark, Moses McGowan, Jas. A. Inches, D. Main, Jas. G. Stevens, jr., Robert Adams, Hon. James Mitchell, Wm. Murray, J. K. Laffin, D. Crilley, Jas. McKenzie, J. T. Whitlock, A. Cameron, P. G. MacFarlane, John Mowatt, F. A. Irvin, R. D. Ross, L. M. Robinson, T. K. McGeachy, John M. Stevens, James Murray, John Wilson, John McWha, W. W. Inches, Alex. Reid, A. A. Laffin, T. R. Speedy, Joseph MacVay, Thompson McNeill, J. W. Richardson, W. J. McWha, W. S. Stevens, T. W. Humphrey, A. E. Adams, R. B. Gibson, Geo. W. Dinsmore, Dr. J. D. Lawson.

THE TRUSTEES

Those who have occupied the position of Chairman of the Board being.

James G. Stevens, 1859-1860, 1864-1871.

Robert Clark, 1861-1863.

W. H. Clark, 1872-1873, 1879-1880.

J. G. Stevens, jr., 1874.

D. Main, 1881-1883.

D. Crilley, 1884.

J. T. Whitlock, 1885-1891, 1896-1903.

P. G. MacFarlane, 1892-1895.

A. A. Laffin, 1904, to the present time.

Many of the foregoing are dead, but the majority are still living, most of whom are actively engaged in trying to promote the welfare of the church.

It would be impossible to mention all the work that has been done by them, the details connected with the purchase of property, of its sale and transfer.

The present commodious manse was erected on a site granted by the late Judge Stevens, the present lawn being the gift of Mr. Philip Breen, who has always been a warm friend of the minister. It was first occupied by the Reverend Robert Wilson.

The "Elder Memorial" Hall, named after the Reverend William Elder, was built for the church by Mr. Joseph MacVay, the amount of his tender being \$1425. It was formally taken off his hands on the 30th January, 1886.

At a meeting of the Trustees held on 9th August, 1886, the following resolution was passed by the casting vote of the chairman.

"Resolved, that we enlarge the church next spring, and recommend that the congregation endorse the change, and instruct the Trustees to take the necessary steps to carry it out."

The terms of this resolution were afterwards agreed to at a special meeting of the congregation held on the 18th August, 1886.

THE TRUSTEES

After some delay "tenders" were invited, and the contract for enlarging the church was awarded to Stevenson and McKenzie, on April 26th, 1888, their tender being \$2990.

At a meeting of the Trustees on 14th November following, Mr. Whitlock, on behalf of the building committee, reported that the rebuilding and furnishing of the church had been completed and accepted from the contractor.

According to the statement of the treasurer the total expense of rebuilding and furnishing the church was \$4773. Of this amount \$3000 was raised on a mortgage from Mr. Philip Breen. It was this mortgage that has been recently burned.

Too much praise cannot be given to Mr. J. T. Whitlock for the interest he took both in the erection of the "Elder Memorial" Hall and the rebuilding of the church. He was Chairman of the Board at the time and most of the responsibility for the undertaking rested upon him. From beginning to end he financed the undertaking, and worked hand in hand with the Pastor, Reverend Godfrey Shore, to raise the necessary funds, and so bring the matter to a successful issue.

The next venture was the purchase of a pipe organ.

At a meeting of the Trustees held 20th September, 1898, it was unanimously agreed to close the contract with the R. S. Williams Co., Toronto, to build an organ, according to specifications and design, for the sum of \$1300.

The organ was duly installed, and after a period of fourteen weeks, when Miss Jessie Wall acted as organist, Miss Maria Alexander, our present esteemed organist, was appointed to the position on 10th April, 1899.

After the installation of the organ, it was found that the platform accommodation for the choir was inadequate. At a meeting of the Trustees, 8th Novem-

THE TRUSTEES

ber, 1909, it was decided to build an alcove for the organ.

A piece of ground measuring five feet by seventy-two feet, at the rear of the church, was purchased from Mrs. Beard for the sum of \$150. A deed for the same was obtained and duly recorded.

The contract for building was awarded to Mr. E. M. Nesbitt, the tender being \$200.

At the congregational meeting held on the 17th January, 1906, when all the accounts were submitted, it was found the total cost incurred was \$532. This addition has greatly improved the appearance of the property, as well as increasing the accommodation of the choir.

In the summer of 1908, the Trustees, on the request of the ladies, added a kitchen to the Elder Memorial Hall at a cost of \$412, which was paid in full by the Ladies' Aid.

I have given but a running sketch of the more important work done by Trustees, but it is sufficient to show that we have always had men at the head of our material affairs well fitted to discharge the duties involved.

When Mr. Whitlock retired from the Board after having served as chairman for at least fifteen years, he was succeeded, in the chairmanship, by Mr. A. A. Laffin, who has been unremitting in his efforts to advance the material welfare of the congregation, and whose services are highly appreciated by all.

With him is associated a board of Trustees, who are nobly maintaining the traditions of their predecessors.

The present Board consists of Mr. A. A. Laffin, chairman; Mr. A. Cameron, treasurer; Mr. P. G. MacFarlane, secretary, Messrs. James Murray, Jas. G. Stevens, jr., Dr. J. D. Lawson, T. W. Humphrey, and T. R. Speedy.

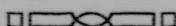
Mr. Cameron and Mr. MacFarlane have long dis-

THE LADIES' AID SOCIETY

charged the duties of Treasurer and Secretary, respectively.

Mr. T. W. Humphrey has the arduous task of receiving and checking the Sunday offerings. He was preceded in this office by Mr. L. M. Robinson.

These officers have all been faithful and efficient, and are highly respected by the whole congregation.



The Ladies' Aid Society.

The Society bearing the above name is of recent origin, but for convenience it may be used as a starting point for a few words of appreciation of the efforts of the ladies since the congregation was organized.

As far back as 1845, we find the ladies promoting a bazaar to raise funds for the erection of a church, with marked success. Since then there have been many societies, whether organized or not in the strict sense of the term, such as sewing circles, etc.

The older members of the congregation, whilst not minimizing the efforts of the ladies in more recent times, maintain that in their younger days as much work was done, involving more self-sacrifice because the congregation was smaller.

The writer would like to refer to some of the families who, in early days, shouldered the burden of responsibility and took the lead in every good work, but it is not expedient.

The work and worth of the Presbyterian ladies is known to all in the town.

During the past five years, in particular, they formed themselves into an organization known as "The Ladies' Aid Society" and have been remarkably successful.

THE CHOIR

In a congregation where all the ladies have been so energetic it would be invidious to particularize. I will simply mention the names of those whom the ladies of the congregation selected to be their official head as President:

Mrs. Charles Grimmer, 1905-1906.

Mrs. Thompson McNeill, 1907.

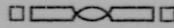
Mrs. W. H. Keys, 1908.

Mrs. J. D. Lawson, 1909.

The ladies have always been characterized by enthusiasm and zeal for the removal of the debt, as well as a desire to beautify and improve the property.

In addition to their efforts to wipe off the debt, they have been principally instrumental in paying for the organ, the building of the annex, etc.

To all the ladies the congregation offers thanks and congratulations.



The Choir.

The choir has been always an integral part of public worship. It is required to successfully conduct the service of praise.

Before the introduction of instrumental music in our church, there was a choir composed as follows: Mr. Henry Clark, precentor.

Messrs. James G. Stevens, Robert Clark, Henry Laughlin, Joseph K. Laughlin, Samuel and William Gilmore, Misses Katherine Clark, Letitia Boyle, S. A. Price, Sarah McWilliam, Lizzie Lemon, Nancy Kirk, Marian Campbell, Jane Alexander.

Since the introduction of instrumental music—first a melodeon, then an American organ, and recently a pipe organ the following have presided at the organ, viz:

The Choir.



Top row, left to right—Misses Lottie Lowry, Mary Reid, Mr. W. Southard, Misses Celia Clark, Annie McGeachy. Middle row—Mrs. R. B. Gibson, Miss Maria Alexander, Mr. James Murray, Mrs. W. J. McWha, Mrs. R. D. Ross, Miss Leola McWha. Third row—Mr. Dugald McGeachy, Miss Myrtle Lowry, Mr. Mel. Buchanan. Bottom Row—Mr. Edward McWha.

THE CHOIR

Miss Harriet Gilmore, Miss Grace B. Stevens, Miss Eliza Stewart, Mrs. John Mudge, Miss Emma Robinson, Miss Alice Owen, Miss Reta Clark, Miss Agnes Clark, Miss Maria Alexander.

The choir at present is composed of the following:
Mr. James Murray, Conductor.

Miss Maria Alexander, Organist.

Soprano: Mrs. R. D. Ross, Mrs. W. McWha, Mrs. R. B. Gibson, Miss Mary Reid, Miss Celia Clark.

Alto: Misses Myrtle Lowry, Lottie Lowry, Annie McGeachy, and Leola McWha.

Bass: James Murray, W. Southard.

Tenor: Ed. McWha, D. McGeachy, M. Buchanan.

The choir is one of the most potent factors in the church. By its zeal in practising good music, and the regularity of its members, the Psalmody of the church has been brought to a high state of perfection. We are justly proud of our choir. All its members are worthy of the highest praise. No matter what attractions there may be elsewhere, seldom do any of its members absent themselves from the house of God.

Its present high state of efficiency is due largely to the unwearied efforts of its conductor, Mr. James Murray, who for a period of over twenty three years has guided its affairs. Being deservedly popular with all its members, he has no difficulty in securing their attendance. It is over thirty years since he first became a member of the choir.

In connection with the choir, reference may now be made to a matter which, from an historical point of view, is of interest to this congregation, viz.: "The Battle of the Organ."

Early in the ministry of Dr. Elder, the congregation, in order to aid in the service of singing, made use of a small melodeon as a help to such of the congregation as took the lead in singing. The use of this instrument stirred up the indignation of that worthy and devoted christian man, Reverend John Turnbull,

THE CHOIR

who strenuously decried against the use of the melodeon, and carried the matter before the courts of the church.

The use of the instrument being contrary to the use and wont of the Presbyterian church, a committee of the Synod was appointed to remonstrate with the congregation relative to the same.

The Reverend Mr. McDonald was one of the commissioners appointed to deal with the congregation, and preached a long and exhaustive and exhausting sermon, in which he endeavoured to show the unlawfulness and unscripturalness of instrumental music in churches.

His report was submitted to the Synod, but the congregation still remained refractory.

A deputation again visited St. Stephen, when the most estimable ministers, the late Reverend Dr. Sedgewick, and the late Dr. McGregor, and Dr. Morton, urged the discontinuance of instrumental music.

At this stage, the Session strongly urged delaying action to extremity, and gave the deputation to understand that if the Synod enforced their order to do away with the melodeon, a serious division in the congregation would be the result, and the effect most disastrous.

Upon this statement, the deputation took counsel together, and the matter drifted along until the views of both ministers and laymen were gradually changed in regard to the use of instrumental music in the churches, and the little melodeon has given place to the full winded pipe organ, which now helps to beautify and adorn the edifice. And now, in almost every church, the organ peals forth the solemn sounds which ascend to the praise of that God to whom the Israelites of old raised their voices and praised him on psaltery and harp, and now, since the peaceful establishment of the St. Stephen church organ, the congregation, with mem-

THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

ories of the past, weekly sing "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." Thus the "Battle of the Organ" question was first fought in the St. Stephen congregation.



The Seventy-fifth Anniversary.

The congregation having been first organized seventy-five years ago, it was deemed proper to celebrate the event in a becoming way.

At a meeting of Trustees held 20th April, 1909, a jubilee committee, consisting of Messrs. Dr. Lawson, James Murray, and P. G. MacFarlane, was appointed, with full powers to issue the matter.

In connection with this event it was also decided to remove the debt which has hampered the activities of the church for so many years.

Through the efforts of the ladies, the assistance of the Sunday School, and the personal subscriptions received by the Pastor, this object has been accomplished, and the congregation now enjoys freedom from debt.

Jubilee services were arranged, extending from Sunday, 7th to 14th November, inclusive, this year.

The observance of the anniversary was commenced by Professor J. W. Falconer, M.A., B.D., of the Presbyterian College, Halifax, who conducted public worship on Sunday, the 7th November, both morning and evening. His sermons, which were listened to by large and appreciative congregations, were scholarly and edifying.

His subject at the morning service was founded on Matthew 16: 17-18, "Peter's confession of faith in the Divinity of Christ—the rock on which the Church is founded."

THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

In the evening his subject was "The authority of Christ in religion," taken from Matthew 28: 18.

There was also a service for children at three o'clock, when a helpful address was delivered by the Reverend R. S. Underwood, of the Congregational Church, Milltown, N. B.

Monday evening the 8th November, was devoted to Missions, when a thrilling address was delivered by the Reverend James Ross, Superintendent of Missions, his subject being "Christian Empire Building."

By way of variety there was an organ recital, on Tuesday the 9th November, by D. Arnold Fox, of St. John, assisted by Aubrey Dewar as soloist and the choir.

On Wednesday evening, 10th November, public worship was conducted by the Reverend W. H. Smith, Ph. D., of Fredericton, who preached an able sermon on "A fundamental principle in Christ's teaching concerning the Kingdom."

The congregation was large and representative, the Methodist and Baptist Churches having united with us on this occasion.

The climax of the celebration was reached on Thursday evening, the 11th November, when there was a congregational gathering. The edifice was crowded to the doors, and an excellent feeling pervaded the large congregation.

On the platform with the Pastor were His Worship Mayor Grimmer, and Reverends Gordon Dickie, W. W. Rainnie, (Presbyterian); Ven. Arch. Newnham, (Church of England); S. Howard, (Methodist); W. C. Goucher, C. Sterling, J. Cromwell Hughes, (Baptist); R. S. Underwood, C. G. McCully, (Congregational).

Greetings from the Presbytery of St. John were conveyed by Reverend Gordon Dickie, and Reverend W. W. Rainnie, and brief speeches from A. A. Laffin, Dr. Lawson, J. G. Stevens and P. G. MacFarlane.

Then took place the "Burning of the Mortgage" by

THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

Mrs. Henry Clark and Mr. Henry Laughlin, whilst the choir sang the Doxology.

Following this Miss Grace B. Stevens, in an appropriate speech, presented, in the name of the congregation, bouquets to Mrs. Clark and Mr. Laughlin.

Greetings were then conveyed from the town by His Worship, Mayor R. Watson Grimmer, and from the other denominations by the visiting clergymen.

Afterwards the congregation adjourned to the "Elder Memorial" Hall, where refreshments were served. A short speech was made by Mr. J. T. Whitlock, who was unavoidably prevented from attending the former part of the proceedings.

Before the meeting adjourned Mrs. J. D. Lawson, daughter of the late Judge Stevens, on behalf of the ladies, presented the Pastor, Reverend L. B. Gibson, with a bouquet of roses as a slight token of their appreciation of his services.

On Friday night, 12th November, Preparatory service was conducted by the Reverend Gordon Dickie, M. A.; who took as his subject, "What is truth?"

The anniversary services were brought to a close on Sunday, 14th November, when the Pastor preached, and dispensed communion at the morning service.

The congregation greatly appreciated the services of those who took part.

Reference must here be made to the important part the choir had in the celebration, and to Miss Celia Clark, Mrs. John Wall, Miss Lois Wry, Mr. Aubrey Dewar, and Mr. Herbert Moore, who kindly rendered solos.

The choir was at its best, and its anthems were greatly appreciated.

These Jubilee services, which mark an epoch in the history of the church, are now a matter of history, but the memory of them should influence us for the future.

THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

We should go forward determined to do still nobler things than were accomplished by our fathers.

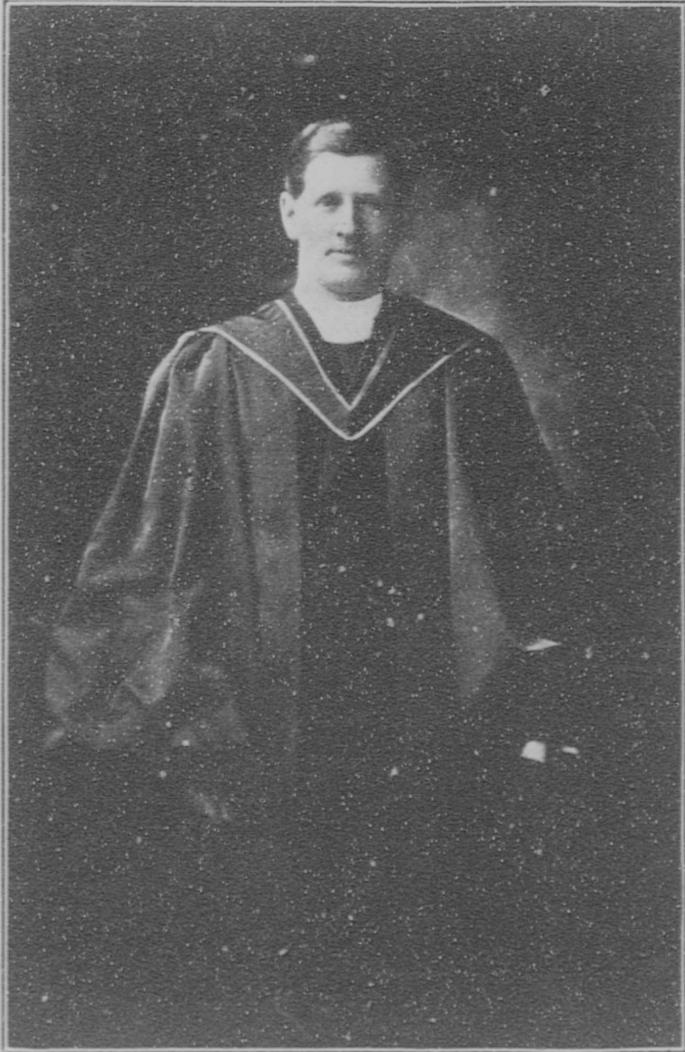
This sketch, bearing as it does many imperfections owing to lack of time to thoroughly revise and rewrite it, will nevertheless call to mind many of those who walked our streets and worshipped in our church in years gone by.

During the past seventy-five years our town and congregation have experienced many changes.

We cannot doubt but still greater changes will take place during the next seventy-five or one hundred years. The question may well be asked, what then will our town and church be like?

“Who'll press for gold each crowded street,
A hundred years to come?
Who'll tread yon church with willing feet,
A hundred years to come?
Pale, trembling age, and fiery youth,
And childhood with his brow of truth,
The rich and poor, on land and sea,
Where will the mighty millions be,
A hundred years to come?”

We all within our graves shall sleep
A hundred years to come;
No living soul for us will weep,
But other men our land will till,
A hundred years to come;
And others then our streets will fill,
And others' lips will sing as gay,
And bright the sunshine as to-day,
A hundred years to come.”



REV. L. B. GIBSON, M.A., B.D.

To
The Presbyterian Church, St. Stephen, N. B.
in remembrance
of those who belonged to the congregation in the past
and
a tribute of love to the living
whose sympathy and co-operation the writer has unceasingly
enjoyed since his induction to the Pastorate
this brief record
is
respectfully and affectionately
DEDICATED

