

In order to spend the Sabbath at Five Islands and be in time to take the packet the next morning it was necessary for me to travel to Partridge Island, a distance of 12 miles, on the beach on a dark night alone. As there were rivers to be forded and miry places to be shunned, to one like myself, unacquainted with the way, it was a dreary and perilous journey. Kind Providence, however, graciously conducted me through safely.

On the 17th day of December following I left Cornwallis to visit this people again, going via Halifax. On the way I was detained by sickness some time in Lower Stewiacke. On my arrival at Lower Economy on Lord's day, March 23rd, though much indisposed, I attempted to preach at that place. While offering the first prayer I fainted and had to be carried into another room and laid on a bed. On slightly recovering, I requested a pious man, a Presbyterian Elder, to read a sermon, which he kindly did.

On the 21st day of September I baptized one woman, a Mrs. Nichols, at Halfway River. It may be doubted if it was wise in me to extend my labors for so large a space; but the destitution was so extensive that I could not rest satisfied to limit them. The sentiments of the Baptists were extremely unpopular in that region, and therefore it need not excite surprise that there was only a few baptized in the early part of my labors. Good seed has been sown, and the heaven was diffused and happy results have manifestly followed. In the year 1818, 24 persons were baptized by me at Five Islands. August 30th, Elijah Crocker, Mrs. Mary Crocker and Miss Jane Thompson and subsequently Mrs. Broderick.

I exercised pastoral supervision over those that were baptized and held little conferences among them as opportunity was afforded; but it did not seem to me expedient to organize a church until there was a sufficient number in some one place that could meet together to keep up public worship.

I rejoice that others have entered on my labors, and that churches have been formed and many gathered into them. Give my kind regards to the dear brethren and sisters.

Affectionately yours,
CHARLES TUPPER.

We are also indebted to Mrs. Tupper (wife of the venerable doctor) for "A few reminiscences of the rise and progress of the Baptist cause in Five Islands and Lower Economy." Mrs. T. writes as follows:—

"There is no reference made (in the Association Minutes?) to Five Islands and Lower Economy until the year 1821. In 1821 there came a request from individuals at Five Islands and Parrsborough expressing the Macedonian cry, 'Come over and help us.' And one of the members being present, in a solemn and affecting manner stated their peculiar need. The Association voted that the Committee on Missions afford them relief. In 1826 Elder James Munroe spent five weeks of missionary labour at Parrsborough."

As our sister's letter does not refer to the intermediate years between 1826 and 1832 we will now leave it for the present while we refer to the labors of the late Elder James Munroe and the organization of the church, which took place in 1828.

In the early part of that year Bro. M. made several visits to Economy, and as a result of his labours here the mind of Mr. James Soley became impressed with regard to the subject of religion. Having through divine mercy obtained a hope in Christ, his next thought was similar to that of the great Apostle to the Gentiles, as expressed in those ever memorable words, "Lord what wilt thou have me to do?" After due enquiry and examination he became convinced that the principles and practices of the Baptists were in accordance with the Scriptures. Having arrived at this conclusion, he "reasoned not with flesh and blood," and although the divinely appointed path was as now, unpopular, the majority of the people were opposed to his action, he dared to cast in his lot with the apparently feeble minority. In obedience to his Lord's command, and following the example of his Master and the Primitive Christian Church, he descended into the baptismal waters. Thus symbolizing his death unto sin, his burial with Christ, and his resurrection unto newness of life.

Nor did he go alone. His wife—a true helpmeet—having experienced a saving change of heart, was led to follow Christ in company with her husband. At the same time a Mr. William Crow was baptized. The baptism took place at Carrsbrook, Lord's Day, August 23rd. The occasion was one of deep interest. Bro. M., in writing to the Editors of the *Gospel Magazine* under date Oct. 21st, 1828, thus describes the event.

"On the Lord's Day following (Aug. 23rd) I preached to an attentive congrega-

tion on the subject of regeneration, after which we repaired to the water's side, where I made a few remarks in reference to the ordinance about to be administered, principally confining myself to a citation of those texts which relate thereto. I then baptized the candidates, in the presence of a numerous assembly, whose marked attention and solemnity did great credit to themselves, while it afforded me much pleasure."

In September following Bro. M., in company with Messrs. Alexr. Upham and David Page, both members of the Onslow Church, made another visit to Economy. They met at the house of Thomas Faulkner, Esq., when four persons gave a satisfactory relationship of the work of grace upon their hearts and were baptized on the Lord's Day morning following. Their names were, Mr. John Fulton, father of our esteemed brother, Deacon Thomas Fulton, who has for many years used the office of deacon well at Portauquique and Upper Economy; Mrs. Read, an old lady of eighty years of age; Mrs. Marsh and Miss Broderick. After the baptism Bro. M. preached at the house of a Mr. Corbett "to a large and solemn assembly." It was not strange that these persons, having obeyed one of the ordinances of the New Testament, should wish to celebrate the other—the Lord's Supper. Accordingly a church of baptized believers was organized, consisting of seven baptized by Bro. M., three baptized some years before by the Rev. C. Tupper, and one who had a certificate from the church at Cornwallis, eleven in all. They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in breaking of bread and in prayers. . . . And the Lord added to the church the saved.

We will now again refer to Sister Tupper's letter:—

"In September, 1832, Robert Dickie labored two weeks with the people of Economy and Five Islands. He says, 'The Baptist Church in this place is composed of persons who live at a distance from each other, consequently it is difficult for them to meet for conference or prayer-meetings; they joyfully receive Baptist missionaries, and an effectual door is opened for preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. In 1834 the Economy Church was received into the Association. Bro. Thomas Soley was their delegate.'"

"Among the extracts of letters from churches we find the following:—'Application was made by the church at this session to be admitted into our Association, which was cheerfully complied with. The number of members being fourteen, and at present without ministerial labor, they have solicited assistance from the Missionary Board, and appear to be walking in love and united in the truths of the gospel. They request an interest in the united supplications of their brethren.'"

Having given quotations from Mrs. Tupper's letter, we will content ourselves with relating such facts as will be of general interest.

In 1835 they sent no delegate. They say:—

"This little church is without a shepherd and hungering for the Bread of life; desirous of some of the messengers of peace to visit them."

In 1837 Bro. John E. Cogswell writes:—"In visiting the settlements of Economy and Five Islands I found the remains of a small church there, organized by our much lamented Bro. James Munroe. I found eight or nine individuals who had formerly walked together in church fellowship. These I called together, and we held a conference meeting at which all seemed deeply sensible of the backslidden and scattered state of Zion. I continued to visit them monthly."

In October, 1838, Bro. C. again writes:—"In October I baptized and in Jan'y administered the Lord's Supper to ten members, when Bro. James Soley was set apart as deacon."

March 17th, 1839, the same brother writes:—"I baptized four females. The prayer-meetings are kept up when there is no preaching. They have, however, to encounter much opposition in the discharge of duty. I believe that more will be gathered into the fold ere long."

The practical result of Bro. C's labours was seen that year, inasmuch as the little church, consisting of twelve members, sent its first contribution to the Association in aid of the missionary fund to the amount of five shillings. This contribution cast into the treasury of the Lord, evidently received the divine blessing, and we think it had much to do with the season of prosperity that immediately followed. They

evidently put to the test the divine precept, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse . . . saith the Lord of hosts," and the Lord opened the windows of heaven and gave them a gracious blessing.

In the year 1841 Bros. Soley and Faulkner were sent as delegates to the Association at Onslow. A gracious season of revival was that year enjoyed by the church, nineteen having been added by baptism and two by letter. The revival was not confined to that year, for in 1842 and '43 under the pastorate of the Rev. John E. Cogswell, they report an addition of eighteen in the former years by baptism and by letter two. In the latter by baptism seventeen and by letter four.

The year 1843 was an important epoch in our history. The Rev. J. E. Cogswell had for two years been labouring in the vicinity of Portauquique and Upper Economy and now the blessing was coming. Reviving influences manifested themselves, and God was calling upon this little church to lengthen her cords and strengthen her stakes; to go up and possess these settlements for Christ. Accordingly thirty-one persons were that year cheerfully dismissed for the purpose of being organized into a Christian church and thus maintain the standard of truth in those localities. Although her own membership was reduced to thirty she was not disobedient to what subsequent events have shown, most unmistakably shown, was of the Lord's own ordering.

In 1845 the church reported a further addition of six by baptism and one by letter making a total membership of thirty-seven. From this year until 1850 the church, for some reason or other, did not report to the Association. In that year the Rev. C. Marshall was their delegate, and they report a membership of thirty-five. We find by examining the Minutes of the Association that during a period extending from 1851 till 1866 there were but nine letters sent by this church.

Bro. S. Thompson—the first person baptized by the Rev. J. E. Cogswell—was ordained in 1852, and served our church in the capacity of pastor till 1868.

1856 was a season of mourning for God's Zion here. Bro. James Soley, one of the old standard bearers of the cross in this neighbourhood, fell asleep in Jesus. Our highly esteemed brother was noted for his exemplary Christian life and warm espousal of the cause of truth. He frequently journeyed in company with Bro. Samuel Thompson from Lower Economy to Five Islands, where he, with Bro. Thompson, managed to sustain with a lively degree of interest the prayer and conference meetings. Our brother's religion consisted not only in word, but in deed also. Ministers of the gospel and other friends of Zion were always heartily welcomed to his comfortable home.

For many years the church was without a meeting-house, and it was in our brother's heart to raise a tabernacle for the worship of the living God. For this object he labored hard with his hands and gave liberally of his means. Ere he could, however, worship in that tabernacle his Master called him to praise in that "house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

His venerable partner was permitted to live to see the whole of her children and two of her grandchildren converted to God and united with this church, of which she was the last constituent member. She died May 13th of the present year, and her obituary notice will be found in the *Christian Messenger* of July 24th.

With unfeigned sorrow we have now to report a time of dearth and darkness in the church. So cold had the love and zeal of Christ's servants grown, that in 1863, when Brother Josiah Soley, youngest son of the late lamented James Soley, attended his first conference meeting to request baptism only four were present.

In 1866 God lifted the dark cloud overhanging the cause of Christ, and caused the light of his countenance to shine in upon us. Bro. J. Newcombe, in conjunction with the pastor, held a series of special services, which were greatly owned of God. As a result of this effort, and by letter, twenty-five persons were added. This year the church, considering Bro. Josiah Soley as fitted for the office of deacon, he was

accordingly elected and ordained to that responsible position. Among the number baptized in 1866 were three remaining sons and daughters of Bro. James Soley.

1868 saw the close of our esteemed Bro. S. Thompson's pastorate. Often without fee or reward he laboured on in adversity and in prosperity. Frequently sorrowing over the low state of religious life in the church. He was not, however, left without tokens of divine favour, upwards of forty persons being baptized by him during his ministry here.

The Rev. D. McKeen was called the following year to take charge of the church for one fourth of his time. Owing to the meagre information afforded us we are unable to report many particulars about our brother's ministry. We find, however, that eight persons were baptized by him into the fellowship of this church during his pastorate, which on account of ill health was brought to a close early in 1876.

At the commencement of September of that year Bro. P. S. Macgregor commenced a series of special services in this neighbourhood which were speedily and largely owned of God in the conversion of sinners and the awakening of the Christian church. The Rev. D. McKeen was invited at this time to pay us a visit and baptize the converts. On Wednesday, the 13th day of that month, the present pastor came and laboured in conjunction with Bro. Macgregor for the remainder of the week. As a result of these united labours twelve were baptized by the Rev. D. McKeen on the following Lord's Day.

By a unanimous vote of the churches at Portauquique, Upper Economy, Lower Economy and Five Islands, the present pastor was called to the oversight of these churches. The special meetings were continued with most encouraging success till the 30th of September. On the 1st of October the good resulting from these efforts was seen by ten being added to the church by baptism and one by experience.

November following a house of worship, erected by the church at Five Islands was opened and dedicated to the service of the Lord. Dedicatory sermons were preached in the morning by the Rev. D. McKeen, in the afternoon by Rev. M. P. Freeman, and in the evening by the pastor. That morning six were baptized and received the right hand of fellowship after the service. Thirty-six were baptized this year and three received by letter.

At the urgent and hearty invitation of pastor and people, the Rev. Isaiah Wallace came and stayed in our midst for upwards of a week in the month of November following. The church came up heartily to the work of the Lord, and God again blessed our efforts to extend the Redeemer's Kingdom. Sixteen were speedily added to the church by baptism. These meetings were continued very successfully until Christmas, during which time the pastor was ably assisted by the Revs. J. F. Kempton and M. P. Freeman.

The church having doubled its membership within two years we found it necessary to increase the number of deacons. Two brethren were accordingly elected in the month of May last to fill that highly important position. After a sermon by the pastor on "The nature, work, and officers of a Christian church," the two brethren were solemnly set apart by the imposition of hands and fervent prayer. The Rev. J. F. Kempton baptized two candidates for the pastor in the morning.

Around the last baptism gathers some features of deep interest. When Bro. Thompson some years ago sought for a place to preach in, in Central Economy, only one person, the late Mr. Alexander Marsh, opened his house for that purpose. Though Bro. T. frequently preached at Mr. Marsh's, that friend died without making a public profession of religion. All his family without exception have been united with us in fellowship. Mrs. Marsh was at last led by the Spirit of God to seek forgiveness of sins, and last August, at the advanced age of 84, our beloved sister was baptized, and for the first time the ordinances of the Saviour were administered in Central Economy as given by him to his followers.

During the last two years sixty-one have been added to the church by baptism, and ten by letter, experience

and restoration, making in all a total of seventy-one. It cannot be else but a matter of heartfelt thankfulness to our God that in those years he has given us such an increase of church membership, for in the year 1876 the church reported a membership of only sixty.

In bringing this sketch to a close and looking back upon the cause of Christ in this neighborhood we may well exclaim with an inspired writer, "What hath God wrought!" And now, brethren, our work is finished. The important trust which you committed to us some two years ago we now resign into your hands. In so doing we are comforted with the fact that the relationship has been both pleasant and profitable. Whilst we thus separate with mutual good will to each other, the friendships formed—so fragrant with precious memories—will long be cherished by us. Our sympathies and our prayers will ever be with you. The work in which we have been engaged has been that of the Master's. Any good resulting from our efforts came from him. The glory shall therefore be his, the satisfaction of success ours. Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

For the Christian Messenger.
United States Correspondence.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 24, 1878.

The Chinese Embassy has just arrived and taken up its abode at the fine and roomy headquarters which have been rented for its use. The party consists chiefly of his Excellency Chin Lan Pin, first plenipotentiary to the United States, Spain and Peru, whose mission is to organize a Chinese consular and diplomatic service; Yung Hung, second plenipotentiary; Mr. Yeh, first secretary of the Legation; Mr. Yung, second secretary, and various attaches, servants and attendants. Chin Lan Pin the chief of the Embassy, is an old man of the pure mongolian type, a widower, clad in Chinese costume, as are all the party save Yung Hung who is at least 20 years younger than his chief. They have three Chinese cooks and two American, but the majority of the party prefer dishes served in Chinese style. They have two dining rooms, one in which Asiatic cookery is spread and the other for American viands. Only a few of the company speak English and one American Secretary is employed by them. The Embassy will spend the next two or three weeks sightseeing and resting, after which Chin Lan Pin with his diplomatic corps will proceed to Madrid and thence to Peru, arranging a ministerial and consular service at both places, then returning to Washington. The Embassy is appointed for a term of three years.

An amusing scene occurred at the Interior Department the other day. A crazy woman walked into Secretary Schurz's room, and applied for work. When told that there was no vacant places and no work there for her to do, she declared that work she would, and left saying she would go after her broom and come back to do sweeping, and what was more, at the end of the month she would demand her pay. In a few minutes she returned, true to her word, with a large new broom which she began to wield most vigorously, having first laid aside her hat and donned her cap and apron. A crowd soon collected to see her put out which was quite easily accomplished by means of fair promises. The last such scene at the Treasury Department was when Dr. Mary Walker was forcibly ejected, last Fall. The Doctor was denied admittance into the Treasury building because she wears pantaloons and short skirts instead of a street sweeping train, but she managed to get in unobserved and the task of getting her out was by no means easy. She refused to go and when the watchman tried to push her from the building she fought him tooth and nail. She pounded him with her umbrella, pulled his hair, and defended herself with all her woman's might.

Since the threatened riot of the strikers a few weeks ago, the Treasury has been guarded with extra care, a force of 250 able men armed with Springfield rifles being placed at the command of the captain of the watch. An extra night guard has also been formed which is able to repel any mob violence that might be offered.

MERRILL.