

Looking back over the past three years I sometimes wonder if I would ever have started it if I had known what was ahead of me. It was evident right from the start that we were pioneers (or may be guinea pigs) because we kept encountering problems and obstacles which had to be resolved; problems like the availability of books; I don't think there is a minister in Perth who didn't cross the road when he saw me coming in case I invaded his library again. And I also have to say that it wasn't easy trying to service an attachment (with all that involves) while trying to hold down a job, read books, write essays, and sometimes prepare a sermon to preach next Sunday. But I wouldn't have it any other way. I have just been Ordained and it is all behind me - on second thoughts.....Oh well!!!

J A Campbell
Perth

A DIP INTO THE ARCHIVES

Annual Meeting (St. Giles' 29th May 1873)

Mr. James Grahame (elder, Auldhouse, Glasgow)

"In the Assembly Hall the other day Colonel Mure asked with some surprise and great indignation why it is that the wealthy and the educated classes in Scotland have left the Church of their fathers. My opinion is that the slovenly and the uneducated way of conducting the worship in the Church of Scotland has a good deal to do with the departure of the educated classes. There was at one time what I might call an affected barbarity of language used in the pulpits of Scotland

I once went into a church and there heard a young Free Church Minister imitating (and imitating well) the deep rich roll with which Dr. Candlish pours forth his orations; and I think this Society is doing good in supplying models for our young ministers because if we do not do so they will choose from the older respected diviners someone to imitate and they may not be very happy in their choice".