

The following information comes from the 1908
Souvenir Brochure returned from Canada for our archives.

These two ministers served the congregation
of Ardrossan Parish Church from 1830 until 1888

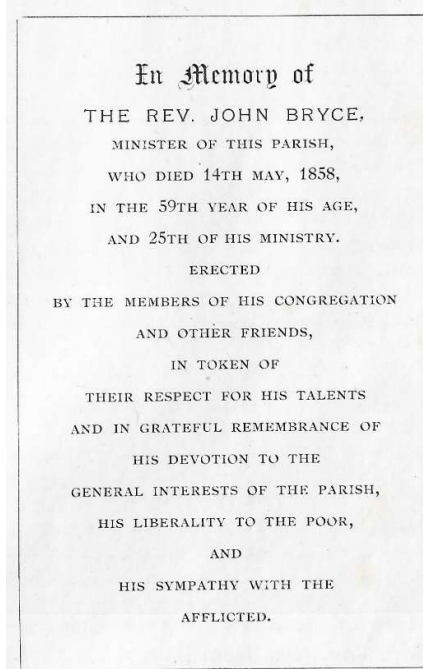
The Rev. John Bryce. 1830 to 1858.

MR BRYCE was born in Muthil in 1799. He studied for the ministry at Glasgow University, and was licensed by Irvine Presbytery in 1826. Two years later he was appointed assistant to Mr Hendry, then Minister of Ardrossan, and in 1830, on a petition from the parishioners, he was presented by the Earl of Eglinton as assistant and successor to Mr Hendry. He was appointed Clerk to the Presbytery in 1833, and filled that office with much distinction throughout his ministry.

As a preacher, Mr Bryce early became a favourite, and his popularity never waned. His pulpit gifts were not of the brilliant order, but his sermons were always careful in arrangement, concise and felicitous in diction, and easily remembered, the divisions being natural and textual. His prayers were simple and reverent, and it is interesting to note that he seldom omitted to pray for persons of unsound mind, for those who might be taken away by sudden death, and for the mariner on the lonely deep. In visitation he had a kindly and courteous manner, and his tender sympathy in times of affliction and sickness made his presence in the home a great source of strength and comfort.

Mr Bryce was conspicuous for his catholicity of spirit, and in the dispensing of his charity he knew no sectarian distinctions. His gifts, moreover, were always bestowed with tactful consideration for the feelings of the recipients, and with anxious care that no violence should be done to that spirit of independence which belongs to a sturdy Scot.

As a man, Mr Bryce was kind, faithful, and friendly, and his geniality made his companionship a delight. He was highly cultured and very versatile. He died on 14th May, 1858, in his 59th year.



They were followed by Rev. W. Rossie Brown who by persistence and tireless efforts achieved his long held ambition to have a new church built. Sadly after all his efforts he did not see the new church completed as he died very suddenly just six weeks after the first sod had been cut.

The Rev. David Evan M'Nab. 1858 to 1888.

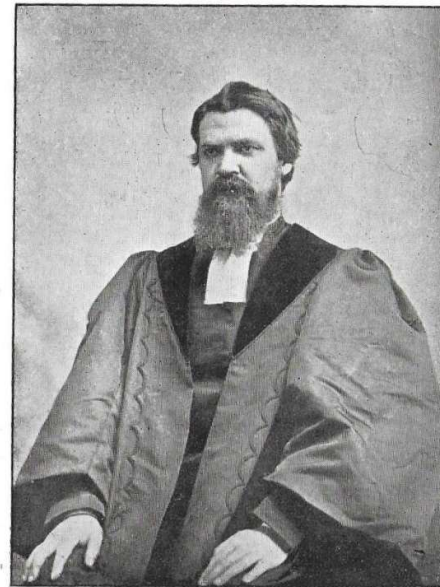
THE county of Perth also supplied Mr Bryce's successor, Mr M'Nab, who was born at Crieff in 1833. He, too, studied at Glasgow University. On the occurrence of the vacancy in Ardrossan, Mr M'Nab, who was then a Missionary in Dalry, Ayrshire, was invited to preach as one of four candidates. The election took place on 2nd August, 1858, the male members only voting, and the ordination followed on 16th September.

Within a year of his ordination, the district was stirred by the revival of 1859. Into this movement Mr M'Nab threw himself with great zeal, and the impulse then received remained with him through a strenuous life and a fruitful ministry.

The late Principal Caird spoke of Mr M'Nab as one of the greatest evangelical preachers of his time, and no one who was privileged to hear him in the plenitude of his powers can ever forget his commanding presence in the pulpit, his burning earnestness in prayer and in preaching, and the vigour with which, in clear and forcible language, he drove the truth home to the hearts and consciences of his hearers.

Mr M'Nab was built on large lines, and lived in an atmosphere free from the taint of sectarian prejudice. His activities were extended far beyond his own parish so long as his strength permitted, and he took an active interest in local affairs, being for many years a member, and for several years chairman, of the School Board.

He suffered a severe blow in the death of his eldest son, Alexander, who had shortly before completed his curriculum for the ministry. Mr M'Nab himself passed to his rest in the summer of 1888.



THE REV. DAVID E. M'NAB.
1858-1888.