

Moments in Our History

(Excerpts from the Dissenting Church of Christ at St. John's 1775 - 1975)

The First Meeting House (Part 2)

But Jones' eyes were upon the town of St. John's, whose wretched condition has been described in a previous article. He wrote in his journal - "concerning St. John's, 'tis hard to say there were three people in it that made any conscience of religion or payed any regard to words or actions that were not censurable by Law, or that did not defame their characters." Jones was particularly shocked by the disregard of the Sabbath and the practice of repairing from church to the nearest tavern. Although he and his friends attended the Church of England every Sunday morning, he had little opinion of the incumbent, the Reverend Edward Langman. "In short, all seriousness or anything like vital religion was reprobated by all from the Prophet downwards ... a man could not expose himself to ridicule and contempt more than by living soberly, singing praises and making prayer to God ..." The Reverend Mr. Langman in his report to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel that year mentions "several Dissenting families in his parish, the greatest part of whom report to the church on Sundays and received the sacrament at the usual times of administering it."