

## **Moments in Our History**

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

#### **The Employment of Begging (Part 5)**

The Committee in St. John's had experienced a crisis that winter not known to their friends in England until the spring. The winter of 1787-88 was proving a very mild one in Newfoundland and it was feared that the timber could not be brought out of the woods. Henry Phillips was also seriously ill. Accordingly, an S.O.S. was sent to Poole via Barbados (one is continually amazed at the lines of communication between Newfoundland and the west country ports at this time) requesting that they send out "a number of sticks." Thomas Crew, Jr., regretted that they had not followed the plan of having the building framed in Halifax or Quebec. It was now too late in the season to do anything and he could only hope that the weather in Newfoundland had changed. So it appears, for when Captain Brown arrived at St. John's in mid-June, he found the wood had all been taken out and the foundation wall begun. He carried with him the lime, paint and linseed oil (the glass and nails having been despatched via Bristol). The bricks and boards, however, could not be obtained in England, and besides the freight would be ruinous. Crew advised purchasing them "on the spot." Besides letters from Mr. Crew (an earlier ship of Mr. Gadens sailing via France had brought papers and school books to Jones as well as the thanks of Mrs. Crew for a keg of berries) there was a letter from Mr. George Kemp with the erroneous news that "upwards of £ 500" had been collected, which would be later dispelled by letters from the Reverend Samuel Greatheed.