

ii.

the few scattered settlers of Nissouri and surrounding townships were but scantily supplied with opportunities of hearing preaching. What little opportunities they had were mostly on week-days, leaving the Sabbath unprovided for. Under these circumstances he commenced his work as a local preacher, preaching regularly once or more nearly every Sabbath. As the country was new, without any travelled roads, he found his way to his appointments sometimes on horseback and often on foot, crossing creeks and swamps on fallen timber, through the unbroken forest. At first as there were no churches or schoolhouses, he held his meetings in the rude shanties of the early settlers. His first sermon was preached in a private house in the 1st concession of Zorra. The late Mrs. Charles Mitchell, of Lakeside, who died in 1897, aged 93 years, was one of his hearers on that occasion. In after years she told him that he took a big text for his first sermon, to which he replied that "it was just what a boy would be likely to." The following incident, as related by an eye-witness, will give some idea of the style in which meetings were conducted in those early days. He was called on to preach a funeral sermon somewhere on the third concession of Nissouri. The place where the service was held was a new log house, having neither windows nor floor and the cracks between the logs being open. An old gentleman who wished to attend the service had no shoes to wear, but his grandson, a young lad growing into manhood, had just got his first pair of boots, and