

of some fifty-two members, among whom much affection was manifested when they came together.

In the latter part of 1821, Rev. Mr. Silcox, after four years' stay in these back woods, returned to his native land for his wife and children, expecting to bring them to the home he had provided in Canada. He remained however in England about seven years, securing the education of his elder children, following his avocation, and preaching on Sabbaths in his native village of Corsely.

It was not to be expected that the flock in Canada, thus left without a shepherd, would fail to fall a prey and be scattered. Mr. Silcox, who was in correspondence with this "church in the wilderness," finally arranged his affairs to return to it, which he did in 1829, bringing wife and family with him. He found that, during his seven years' absence, a great many changes had come over the country. The Church was weakened and divided. Wesleyans and Freewill Baptists were preaching throughout the settlements, and villages were springing up all through the country. The scattered elements of the Church were at once brought together, on the return of the first pastor, and re-organized, although one of the deacons and many of the members had become identified with other bodies. Mr. Silcox, whose services were for the most part gratuitous, continued to preach in Southwold, Westminster and in the vicinity of Port Stanley. The number in fellowship at this time cannot be stated, all the old records having been unfortunately burned up with Mr. Silcox's house and library about two years ago.

From this time the church did not flourish as it had done at first. In the time of the Rebellion, it was destined to receive another shock. The pastor, by birth an Englishman, sympathized strongly with the government party; the church for the most part held the other way, although not mixed up in the rebellion. The church and pastor became alienated. One of the deacons and several of the members left for the United States. The church became very much disorganized. They obtained for some months the services of Rev Mr. Marr. A. Mr. Lyle, from Scotland, also occasionally preached in the neighbourhood. Rev. Mr. Silcox continued to preach in Westminster, and occasionally in Southwold.

Early in the year 1842, a work of grace took place in the neighbourhood. Rev. Mr. Silcox, with a Baptist preacher, held conversation-meetings from house to house, while the Methodists were holding protracted meetings in the adjoining neighbourhood. God bore testimony to His own truth. "Who knows but God may yet raise up the church again in this neighbourhood?" said Mr. S. to a friend. "Where are the materials?" replied his doubting companion. "If God works, these dead stones shall be made alive, and built up a spiritual house," was the rejoinder. God did work and materials were soon found for a church. The Rev. Wm. Clarke, sen., of London, who had several times visited the neighbourhood, was requested to come over and re-organize these materials, which he did in April, 1842, with something over 20 members, of whom one of the deacons and some others were of the original church. Mr. Silcox was called again to the pastorate, and one of his sons to the deaconate. The church made steady growth until the spring of 1850, when the relation between them and the pastor was broken off. His remuneration being an exceedingly small acknowledgment, he was compelled to give much of his time to his farm.

Rev. W. Burgess, as if sent out by God from England for the special service, succeeded to the pastorate, healing and comforting the church. After