

OUR CHURCHES.

Brampton.

Brampton, the county town of Peel, on the Etobicoke River, at the crossing of the G. T. and C. P. railways, in Chinguacousy township, was incorporated a village in 1852, and a town in 1873. In the year 1820 the first survey was made. In 1837 the number on the assessment roll was 18; in 1850 the number had increased to 78; in 1873 it amounted to 550. The present population is 4,000. In 1851 the churches were English, Wesleyan, Presbyterian and Primitive Methodist.

In giving a sketch of the Baptist interest in Brampton, it seemed necessary to mention these few historical facts at the beginning. As far as the writer has been

able to learn, there was no regular Baptist preaching in Brampton before the year 1850. After that we find such names as Cook, Harris, (grandfather of Rev. Elmore Harris, of Walmer Road, Toronto,) Bailey, Pickle and others who visited the village and preached the gospel. In 1856 a small, open communion church was organized under the leadership of Rev. William Millard, an excellent man. A house of worship was built on the outskirts of the village, probably to suit the Baptists in the region

round about as well as in the village. Mr. Millard ministered regularly to the little band until the year 1864. After his departure from among them the little flock was scattered and preaching was irregular. In the meantime close communion views were gaining ground among the Baptists generally, and some of the few who were in Brampton held to these views. Thus things went on until the year 1873, when, on July 30th, Rev. C. Perren, of Georgetown (now Dr. Perren,

of Chicago), visited Brampton, called all the Baptists together, the number only amounting to nine in all—six women and three men—and organized them into a Regular Baptist Church.

In November, 1873, Rev. Edw'd J. Stobo arrived in Brampton and took charge of the work. From this time the Baptist cause

in Brampton, under the able leadership of Bro. Stobo, takes on new life and becomes an established factor in the religious life of the town. Mr. Stobo had great difficulties to encounter. The meeting-house was outside the town. The membership was small; the interest exceedingly weak; the other churches well established. These and other difficulties would have discouraged a man of less heroism and consecration. But Bro. Stobo went to work in right earnest. On the 8th of February, 1874, he baptized Miss Maggie

