

beauty of its situation, the fertility of its soil, the excellence of its cultivation, or the comfort and prosperity of its people. Among the early settlers there was an unruly element which gave some work to the magistrates. A good deal of drinking prevailed, especially among the older men, and the means of education for the young people were limited. In these respects, too, a great change has taken place and there is not now in the Dominion of Canada a population more orderly, sober, well conducted, and better educated, than that of the Township of Oro.

While thus the moral and material interests of the township have been promoted, the more distinctly spiritual needs of the people have not been neglected. In the southern part of the township where the Church of England had many adherents, a mission was established with the first settlement. Among the Highland settlers worship according to the Presbyterian form was early established, and, so long as necessary, the Gaelic tongue was used in the services. Where Methodists predominated, no time was lost in erecting places of worship, and holding services wherever a congregation could be assembled.

In this brief sketch of the history of the township it will be noticed, unless something remains untold, that while there was a great deal of hard work done, many privations endured, much patience exercised, and many difficulties overcome, there was little to be seen or heard that would appeal to the imagination, or take the life of the settlers out of the prosaic routine of every day existence. Yet in the minds of some, at least, of those entering upon a new life, under entirely new conditions, and amidst entirely new surroundings, there must have been a rising of new hopes and new aspirations, a new sense of freedom, a feeling that here was a life worth living, a goal worth striving for. In the years that followed many may have been the disappointed hopes, the unfulfilled expectations, the ungratified desires, but, in the main, that success was achieved we have for testimony the happy homes, the smiling fields, and the signs everywhere of life passed in the enjoyment of material comfort and mental activity. Such as first told was the Township of Oro in the early days, and such as now described is the Township of Oro to-day.