

text-book than a copy of the Bible; with a shingle, or the inner side of a piece of bark for a slate and copy book, and a charred stick for a pencil.

That Archibald Burtch was one of the ambitious youths of his day who aspired to "book-learning" under such circumstances as we have described, is evident from the fact, that he subsequently occupied nearly all the public offices in the gift of the people, many of which required a good degree of education. Very little documentary evidence is available, and all the contemporaries of his early youth are dead, except his second wife, "Grandma Burtch"—whose name, for over sixty years, has been a household word in nearly every home in this district, and in every other land where the teachers and early students of the Canadian Literary Institute have gone and carried kindly remembrances of her Christian zeal and abundant hospitality, to themselves and all others who came within her motherly influence. She still lives at the great age of ninety-two, and is well cared for by her step-son—the present "Deacon Burtch"; but the feeble state of both her body and mind precludes the possibility of her now giving interesting events with which her mind was stored three or four years ago. "Grandma Burtch" has passed away since the above was written.

We learn from the Bible record that Archibald Burtch first saw the light at Cooperstown, New York State, May 13th, 1786; his father's name being Zechariah, who himself was the son of a U. E. Loyalist.

In the year 1792, the first Governor-General, Simcoe, issued an invitation to U. E. Loyalists, and others who preferred to reside under the British flag, to come to Upper Canada and possess the land. Among those who responded was a friend of Governor Simcoe's, a Mr. Watson, and his cousin, Thomas Horner, a man of considerable means. They selected the township of Blenheim, which the Governor granted verbally, but the promise was never carried out by his successors. They returned to York State; but Mr. Horner returned to Canada in 1793, and settled on what he named Horner's Creek, near what is now the Governor's Road, at the south edge of Blenheim, and there erected the first saw mill—carting all the materials therefor from his native state. This was the first white settlement west