

accepted by the Annual Conference, which met the following September within the bounds of his own circuit, namely in the "Fifty Mile Creek Meeting House," in the township of Saltfleet. Six in all were received on trial, three of whom were destined to be eminent: JAMES RICHARDSON, ANSON GREEN, and EGERTON RYERSON; and a fourth, to be much noticed and beloved; this was the quaint but amiable JOHN BLACK.

The next year he was the colleague of Mr., now Bishop Richardson, on the *York and Yonge Street Circuit*. Three things were observable of him at that time: diligence in study—often "consuming the midnight oil and preventing the dawn" for that purpose—fervor of spirit, and, when he rose above his youthful timidity and embarrassment, power in preaching. Some of his most successful efforts were in the York pulpit, during the session of the Provincial Legislature, before such celebrities as Matthews, Bidwell, and Rolph. The door of access to the Indian tribes of the Province was just then opening, and through the choice and influence of the Rev. Wm. Case, the founder of Methodist Indian Missions, Mr. Ryerson was appointed for the Conference year, 1826-27, to the newly-established Mission at the River Credit. He accepted the situation and entered upon his duties with alacrity and great promise of success.

But, "Man proposes, and God disposes." During this very year events transpired which developed his talents for writing, withdrew him from the Indian work, and gave complexion to the whole of his after life. The Rev. Dr. Strachan, then Arch-deacon of York, had shortly before preached and published a sermon on the death of the Lord Bishop of Montreal, in which he had seen fit to place the Methodist Ministers of the country in a suspicious light. A very spirited and powerful reply to those charges appeared in a provincial paper, very much to the delight of the Nonconformists of the country, by one who signed himself "REVIEWER." These articles were soon traced to the young missionary at the Credit, and awakened admiration from one side and hostility from the other. These letters were followed soon after by others from the same person, exposing certain disparaging statements from the above named detractor, given in evidence before a Committee of the British House of