

Sabbath School

To the late Mr. Robert Lumsden belongs the honor of starting the Presbyterian Sabbath School in Scaforth during the summer of 1867, while the church was being built. The school was held in the Episcopal Methodist Church until the opening of the basement of the church on the first Sabbath of December 1867. The first meeting of the teachers took place in January, 1868, when a Teachers' Association was formed, and officers elected. Mr. D. D. Wilson was appointed Superintendent, Mr. Robert Lumsden, Assistant Superintendent, and Mr. Julius Duncan, Secretary-Treasurer and later Librarian. Mrs. Julius Duncan and her sister, Miss Beattie, were among the first teachers. There were not many required as there were only twenty-five or thirty scholars, but the attendance increased year by year, until there were over 350 pupils and a large staff of teachers, whom we cannot attempt to enumerate. There are a few, however, among these worthy, valued workers who deserve honorable mention because of their long and indefatigable labours. Foremost among these was Mr. Robert Lumsden, who acted as Assistant Superintendent for upwards of thirty years. The memory of Miss M. E. McLean, who taught the Infant Class for forty years, and left the impress of her earnest, intelligent personality upon many in the community, is fragrant also. Mrs. J. R. Lyeon, Mr. J. C. Laidlaw and Mr. L. L. McFaul, too were prominent workers in the earlier days of the Sabbath School. We are honored to have present with us on this occasion, our esteemed Librarian, Mr. James Robb, who for thirty-nine years, has efficiently filled the position of Librarian. Mr. Robb began this work at the age of eighteen and has continued faithfully at his post ever since, rarely missing a Sabbath. After forty years of abundant and fruitful effort, Mr. D. D. Wilson resigned the superintendency. Mr. J. E. Ferguson was selected as his successor and performed the duties acceptably until his removal from Scaforth. Mr. James Cowan was then elected to the office, and under his capable, consecrated leadership the school has become one of the most progressive and prosperous organizations in connection with the church. It has, for over thirty years supported a pupil at Pointe Aux Trembles. This is no doubt responsible for the interest the scholars have increasingly manifested in various missionary activities, their offering last year amounting to \$200. Long a prominent worker in connection with School Section No. 2, and Roxborough Sabbath Schools, Mr. J. M. Wilson, after coming to Scaforth, rendered valuable assistance for eight years in the capacity of Assistant Superintendent. In the list of former Secretaries we notice the names of Messrs. Julius Duncan, Adam Gray, John Rankin, J. W. Livingstone, David Duncan, H. Smith, etc. In conclusion we pray that God's blessing may abundantly rest upon and abide with our Sabbath School as it enters upon another half century of