

# ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

## AN HISTORIC SKETCH

PRESBYTERIANISM in Campbellford goes back to the year 1836. On the 17th of September in that year a meeting of the pioneers of the Township of Seymour was held for the purpose of obtaining religious services in connection with the Church of Scotland. A committee was appointed to further the project.

A settled minister was not available, however, for some time; but at length, on January 29th, 1840, the Rev. Robert Neill—better known to a later generation as Dr. Neill—was ordained in Seymour by the old Kirk Presbytery of Kingston.

It is an interesting fact that at the same time another venerable father of the Church, in the person of the late William Reid, D.D., for many years the respected agent of the Church, was ordained at Colborne, the Presbytery going directly on the following day from the ordination of Mr. Neill to that of Mr. Reid.

In addition to his work in Seymour East, Dr. Neill conducted services in the home of Walter Govan, Seymour West; in the school-house at Campbellford, and later in the Town Hall, Campbellford.

For nearly forty-six years this devoted man labored faithfully and left a deep impress upon the life of the entire community, so that his name and work are held in honored remembrance.

The congregation in Burnbrae is the perpetual monument of the work he did, and in his original parish there are now the flourishing congregations of Burnbrae, Rylestone, Stirling, and Campbellford. In November of 1885 he retired from active service, and five years later passed into rest, in Campbellford.