

A Sketch of the History of the Baptist Churches of Aylesford and Upper Wilmot.

THE section of the county between Berwick and Nictaux was the last part of the Annapolis and Cornwallis Valleys to be settled. In the latter part of the eighteenth and the first of the nineteenth centuries, this wilderness welcomed a number of sturdy, courageous immigrants mostly from the revolted New England colonies. In the log houses that went up in the woods, there lived, on the north side of the Annapolis River, the VanBuskirks, Gouchers, Reaghs, Randalls, Gateses, Faleses, Stronaches, Parkers, Bakers, and others. On the south side of the river, among others, were the Weltons, Munroes, Spinneys, Bankses, Wards, McKenneys, McGregors, Saunderses, Wilsons, and others.

Before 1829, among all these settlers, there were about eight or ten who had professed religion. They were members of the Nictaux Church. But their influence was not sufficient to arrest the prevailing worldliness and careless living of the people who, although not christians, were not infidels. They believed, so far as that class of people are able to do, the verities of revelation. The men were hard working and honest, but they made free use of the Jamaica rum with which the country was well supplied. The sentiment then reigning on both sides of the Atlantic was dominant in all parts of Nova Scotia. In the higher classes, an insult was followed by a duel;