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JAMES CROIL

In beginning work, we cannot better link the present to the past than by favoring our readers with a sketch of the busy life and genial, kindly face of him who has published the PRESBYTERIAN RECORD since its first issue, as the organ of the new-formed "Presbyterian Church in Canada," some sixteen years ago:

Descended from a Perthshire family, James Croil was born in Glasgow, 4th September, 1821, so that he has now completed his three score years and ten. He received an excellent education in his native city, and, while still a young man, chose Canada as his home, following hither his elder brother, William Richardson, the owner of Croil Island, in the St. Lawrence River. On

the 5th of June, 1847, he married Miss Catherine Richardson, of Halifax, Nova Scotia. He settled on a farm in Dundas county, near Morrisburg, which was well known in after days, far and near, as Archerfield, and here for about twenty years he followed the plough, and dispensed a large-hearted hospitality to the friends who came that way.

But, like Burns, while turning up the furrows, he courted the muses. Having early acquired a taste for letters, he first ventured upon the domain of authorship by writing a report upon the history and capabilities of the county in which he resided, in response to a desire expressed by the Board of Agriculture for Upper