

Headmaster, and Mr. R. L. Dobson, B.A., succeeded him.—(Copied from "The Calendar of the Lindsay Collegiate Institute" for the year 1893-94.)

THE VIENNA PUBLIC SCHOOL.

As early as 1826 Vienna had a Public School, or, as the term was in those days, a "Common School." The Country was just beginning to be cultivated. Those were the days when the ground was harrowed by a tree-branch and the grain was "ground" in the "hominy stump." Every Settler was busy clearing sufficient land to provide the yearly supply of food. Should the crop fail, or the work go undone, the consequences would be serious for the Settlers. So, it was that few people were then educated. There was no time to give it. As the Children grew out of actual babyhood, they all could help more or less on the Farm; and only the very tiny ones could be sent to School.

Yet, living on their Bush Farms and patiently struggling for their livelihood, there were many ambitious Fathers and Mothers that would willingly have educated their Children. They knew that the future days of this Infant Colony depended on their Children, as well as on others; and so, joining their personal interest with the general interest, whenever the pressure of work lessened a little, the Parents made an effort to send the larger Boys and Girls to School.

When a Pupil had learned what was taught in the Public School, he and his Parents were often anxious to send him to a higher School.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF VIENNA HIGH SCHOOL.

While there are in Ontario many larger High Schools; while many are able to point to their fine Buildings, their complete equipment; while many also can show with pride long Honour Rolls of names well known, and names of men noted for Authorship, or honoured for noble deeds, men of sterling character and of superior ability, no School may boast, comparatively speaking, of a better Building, a finer equipment, or a more noted Honour Roll, than Vienna High School.

Since the early pioneer days of Canada, the Vienna High School has been training men and women to acuteness of mind, to right thoughts, and to strength and beauty of character. It is not a large School; yet, it has done a good work for the people of this part of Ontario.

Thus it was that these needs brought the Grammar Schools into operation in the early days. Vienna Grammar School was the third established in Upper Canada. In 1842, the Reverend Doctor T. Bolton Read was Rector of the Churches of Vienna and Port Burwell. He saw the need for a Grammar School; recognized the conditions under which Pupils could attend it; realized the need for such attendance; and became one of the Originators of the new movement,—the establishment of a Grammar School at Vienna, which took place at length in 1846.

The work of the School was begun in a Room in a Private House. The first Master was Mr. Newcombe,—a Classical Scholar. The Pupils numbered twenty-five, or thirty, young men. Of young women, a number were in attendance, but they were not then counted as Pupils. The day of Higher Education for Women had not dawned; and it was by great kindness that they were permitted to come two, or three, times a week to recite to the Master the Lessons they had prepared, and to have new Lessons assigned to them.