

SARNIA METHODISM

11 o'clock, we left St. Clair Mission in our bark canoe—our company—Evans, Hurlburt, Jacobs, his wife and two children. Evans and Hurlburt have supplies to last one year." Thus ended the pastorate of James Evans on St. Clair.

CHURCHES

"Fortified by Power Divine, the Church can never fail."
—C. Wesley.

We fail to find in any record, a school or church building in what is now Lambton County, before 1831, so we feel safe in claiming the building erected by the Colonial Government in 1831, on the newly established Indian Reserve, St. Clair, to be used as a school and church, as the first building, other than a settler's log cabin, in which Divine worship was held.

It was a frame building, and of it, Indian Agent Jones writes to the Government office, Toronto under date "St. Clair, Aug. 13, 1831. Now as the school house will in course, be required to perform Divine worship in, I think if the end door should be made a little larger than common, and fold in the centre, in the form of a church door, it would improve the looks of the building."

"St. Clair, Aug. 1, 1837, I think it a pity that so fine a building as our school house is, should remain unpainted. It is admired as a convenient and handsome building by all who see it. It is now used as a **Church** as well as a **School house**."

Smith, in his "Canada, Past, Present and Future," published in 1851, says in vol. 1, page 36: "At the reserve in Sarnia is a large house built by the Government for the **joint purpose of a Church and School-house**."

To this mission in July, 1832, by the joint action of Lord Colborne and the British Wesleyan Missionary Board, came Rev. Thomas Turner, as the first regular appointment of a Protestant minister within the bounds of Lambton County. In this **School-Church** he conducted regular preaching services to Indians and white people.

"The Mission," as this building was commonly called, was in size about 26 by 36 feet, and stood north and south about 75 feet north of, and in line with the parsonage. The walls were about 14 feet high. It was a heavy frame building, clap-boarded on the outside, and was painted yellow. The doors were double, opening from the centre and on the river or west side of the Church, a few feet from the south end.

The interior arrangements were, the pulpit and altar rail