

THE CHURCHES

Sunday would come and go in the early days without much to mark it from any other days. There were no churches, nor were there any preaching services. In some of the settlers' cabins Bibles could be found and they were read and treasured, but in many cases if Sunday was observed at all it was simply a day when neighborly calls were made. Often it would be forgotten altogether.

Conditions among the Indians were very bad. Rev. R. Monteath, in his history of Reach, says:

"Elder Marsh, a Baptist preacher, was the first preacher in Reach; and continued for some time. But another gentleman of the same persuasion undertook work of a similar kind which calls for a more extended notice. We refer now to Elder Scott, an agent of the American Missionary Society, who desired strongly to improve the condition of the Indians. A considerable number of the Missisauga tribe—the same tribe who once lived on the site of Toronto—had encamped for years on the shore of Lake Scugog, and prior to the year 1827 their character was extremely bad. 'They were among the most degraded and filthy of all the tribes. Men and women were addicted to drunkenness almost without any exception,' and so destitute were they of moral principle that 'they were pests of the country, and the by-word and scoff, as well as the terror of the inhabitants.' But during the autumn of this year, 'they embraced the Christian religion, and immediately gave the most satisfactory proof of its holy influence and benign tendency. From a condition unspeakably debauched, degraded and vitiated, in almost every sense of the word, they became a serious, moral, and pious community.'"

Everything regarding the relationship between preacher and people was very different eighty or ninety years ago. Parishes or circuits were very large. Preachers used to travel on foot or on horseback many