

and induction were appointed to take place in Downie church June 30th, 1858.

On the day appointed Presbytery met in Downie Church. The sermon was preached by Rev. Mr. Walker, of Chatham; the minister was addressed by Rev. Mr. Caven, of St. Marys, and the people by Rev. Dr. Skinner, who had laid the foundations of the church's work here. The event was one of great rejoicing and was made the occasion of a "Great Solre" in the evening of the same day in the church on the Mitchell Road. It is interesting to note some of the speakers on that occasion, as, for instance, Rev. Mr. Caven, who occupied the chair; Revs. Stevenson, of Stratford; Hall, of Nissouri, and Dr. Skinner, above referred to.

The pastorate assumed by Mr. Hamilton at this time was his only pastoral charge. He spent forty-three years ministering to this community in the things of the Kingdom of Heaven. The work was not without difficulties and discouragements. The roads were difficult as are all roads in pioneer settlements. Much of his travelling was done on horse-back and on foot. Indeed even up till his later years Mr. Hamilton walked while doing much of his pastoral work.

Mr. Hamilton had much to do with moral reform in the community. He was an unrelenting enemy of wasteful, immoral and vicious habits, and he met and fought them openly, fearless of any who challenged him. As in most early settlements he found in the liquor traffic the most difficult evil to combat, but he lived to see in a large measure the victory for which he strove.

Mr. Hamilton was always closely identified with the educational interests of the community. He took a keen interest in his home school-section, and did much to advance and strengthen the work, and to kindle in the community an appreciation of the educational ideal. Many of the boys of his day testify now to his diligence in kindling this love of learning. It was his custom to select from among the older boys some who seemed more likely to respond, call them to the manse regularly and give them lessons in Latin and Greek. It was in vain the boys sometimes made their best "sprint" passing the manse that they might miss the drill when unprepared. The good man's keen eye did not let them escape, or if he missed them he sent for them. It is said by one now grown to manhood and more appreciative of his pastor's interest, that he had even turned his coat inside-out while passing to escape recognition, but in vain. Today Dr. Hamilton's portrait hangs in Motherwell school, a recognition of his faithful labors in the interest of the school, and an inspiration still to the boys and girls.

Mr. Hamilton's interest in education, combined with his scholarship and ability, led to government recognition, and he was appointed a Superintendent of Education, a position correspondent to our inspectorate. This office he filled faithfully for several years.