

and perhaps timidity, or by reason of another course in life which was mapped out for him, it was resisted. It was arranged that he should be the farmer and succeed to the responsibilities of the homestead, consequently he tried to give up his thought of preaching. He ceased all special preparation for that work, neglected to exercise his gifts and endeavored to settle himself at the work which was chosen for him. There was controversy, however. God would not leave him alone. Everything outwardly pointed to the farm. Everything within directed to the pulpit. After much thought and prayer for God's guidance, he decided for the pulpit, and went to Woodstock College in Jan., 1858, where he completed a five years' course in literary training and theology. Nothing very eventful characterized Mr. McEwen's college course. He was throughout a good man, faithful and beloved. He did conscientious and successful student work. He won the respect of teachers and students alike. His Christian influence was very wholesome, and many knew more of the Saviour by being brought into contact with his upright, faithful and unassuming life.

Leaving College in '73, Mr. McEwen was ordained pastor of the Osgoode church, in which position he remained, faithfully prosecuting his ministry for six years. He speaks of his first pastorate in terms of the highest affection for the Osgoode brethren. His work had its happy, as also its discouraging features. For the first eighteen months he labored without any apparent results as far as conversions are concerned, yet through this period of darkness he was comforted by the cheery encouragement of those to whom he ministered. Then for a long while he lay sick and was nigh unto death. He was so dispirited through ill-health and apparent want of success, that he tendered his resignation; but his people, who estimated his work more justly than he did, would not hear a word of it. So beloved was he, that the church was well content to take what service his enfeebled condition would permit him to render. He could preach one sermon a Sunday, and God blessed him and his work abundantly. The church prospered, and when he left it after six years' service, it was with intense gratitude to God, that he had been able to accomplish so much in the presence of conditions that seemed unfavorable to any kind of success.