

Events of most importance in the intervening years may be briefly told. The ministry of Mr. Watson continued until the summer of 1876, when he, together with not a few worthy members, severed his connection with the congregation from conscientious aversion to what he regarded as a defection from the Church of Scotland, or an exchange of membership in that church for membership in a union of Canadian Presbyterian churches. He ministered to those of his old congregation who shared his views until age and infirmity intervened, and resided in Williamstown, most deservedly esteemed by the whole community, until his death on the 1st of August, 1903, at the age of 75.

The Rev. Alexander Macgillivray succeeded Mr. Watson on the 21st September, 1877. The ten years during which he laboured for the good of his people, with all the strength of a young, vigorous and consecrated manhood, was a time of expansion and growth in every department. The church, which had been repaired and improved in 1852, was renovated with a thoroughness and adaptation to modern requirements and the old, quaint appearance of the building, that left nothing to be desired. Upon his transfer to Brockville in the summer of 1887, much to the regret of the people of St. Andrew's, it was recorded, by those who knew, that through his instrumentality more than his stipend had been collected and expended in the improvement of church property, and to this was added the significant statement that his most effective work was not in connection with material things.

The Rev. Mr. Govan has enjoyed a large and constantly increasing measure of the confidence and esteem of his people since his induction on the 27th June, 1888. A happy peculiarity of the people of St. Andrew's is that they think there is no church the equal of old St. Andrew's, no minister equal to theirs, no church union or organization, more united by common interests and sympathies, and that the world cannot offer them a last resting place more comfortable than the church yard of old St. Andrew's.

Nor is this peculiarity, if it can be so called, without reasonable foundation from their point of view. This was a church and burial ground of pioneers of the country, mostly United Empire Loyalists. It has been, and is the church and burial ground of their descendants to the third, fourth and even fifth generation. The ancestors of a proportion of those who gather within the church, from week to week, have been similarly associated for generations.

To few churches in Ontario are the following verses of Emerson more applicable than to St. Andrew's, Williamstown:

We love the venerable house,
Our fathers built to God,
In heaven are kept their grateful vows,
Their dust endears the sod.

Here holy thoughts a light have shed,
From many a radiant face,
And prayers of humble virtue made
The perfume of the place.

And anxious hearts have pondered here,
The mystery of life,
And prayed, the eternal light to clear
Their doubts, and aid their strife.

From humble tenements around,
Came up the pensive train,
And in thy church a blessing found
That filled their homes again.