

KEMPTVILLE, NOVA SCOTIA.

by the primitive Baptist people.

In religious faith and doctrine the people of Kemptville always have been and are now almost entirely Baptists. Previous to the union of the Baptist bodies of christians in the province they were Free Baptists. Among the first settlers were three persons of the Church of England and for about twenty-five years, more recently passed, a small Methodist church was sustained. At the present time there are two churches of the United Baptists of the Maritime Provinces, and one comparatively small primitive Baptist church.

The first man to preach and hold religious services in Kemptville was David Flint, 2d, a lay preacher. Mrs. Flint was a sister of Nathaniel Churchill, the elder. The first ordained minister to visit the people and minister to their religious needs was the Rev. James Lent, of Tusket.

Among the ministers of the Gospel who labored among the people here in the earlier part of their history no name has been more prominent than that of the late Rev. Charles Knowles, of Tusket. His faithful ministry was quite continuous for many years and extended to near the close of his life.

The late Rev. Samuel W. Bennison, as a resident minister, laboured here about ten years previous to the year 1862. Also did the late Rev. Samuel K. West make Kemptville his home after 1862 during the remainder of his days, which numbered up a period of about forty years. He was not often regularly employed by the churches but preached as opportunity afforded. Not unfrequently did other ministers of the Gospel from time to time make visits to the churches here and supply the people with preaching and aid them in sustaining religious services. The present incumbents are the Rev. J. E. Gosline, in the United Baptist churches, and the Rev. A. A. Dalbeck, in the Primitive Baptist church.

The people's interest in temperance work manifested itself in the organization of a lodge of the Independent Order of Good Templars in the year 1863. The name chosen for this lodge was Forest Lodge. Afterwards another lodge of this Order was