

## SARNIA METHODISM

blazed the way of the Church for future years. Of the discouraging features of the beginning, he speaks thus:

In *Christian Guardian* under date, Sept. 24, 1834, Rev. J. Stinson, missionary superintendent, reports James Evans as saying—"On my arrival at this station in July, I found that the Indians were not very favorably disposed towards Christianity and that the greater part of them had obstinately resisted every solicitation from my predecessor to hear the gospel. I commenced by calling on the head chief, Wawanosh, who appeared somewhat pleased when I spoke to him in his own tongue."

David Morrison, Commander Vidal, R.N., Capt. Wright, R.N., Froome Talford and others have left testimonials in their diaries of the remarkable work of James Evans among the Indians. In four years he led almost the entire band from paganism to Christianity.

Not alone the Indians on St. Clair, but we have records from his own pen in which he tells of ministering to the Indians on their newly formed reserves up Lake Huron shore on the Canadian side, and also to Fort Malden on the south, and from far north, delegations came to hear and interview him regarding the new religion. Also on the Michigan side from as far north as Saginaw Bay, the Indians came to him to receive the gospel message.

He accepted the invitation from "the new townships" as a genuine Macedonian call. Up the shore line to the settlers of Sarnia and Plympton, down the river to those of Sarnia and Moore; east to Warwick where in the house of John Park, a large and commodious log building, on the corner of the concession, just north of Watford, he held regular services.

To Revs. Thomas Turner and James Evans, Lambton Methodism and Protestantism owes a debt difficult to pay.

During the last year of his pastorate here, James Evans had as his colleague, Thomas Hurlburt, (one of six brothers to enter the ministry) himself being absent all summer and autumn on duty for the mission.

Following the conference in Toronto in June, he went from there, after much delay owing to poor transportation, to New York City, to superintend the printing of translations of hymns and scripture for the mission. It was almost mid-November, ere this work was completed and he turned his face again homeward.

The *Christian Guardian* of Aug. 29, 1838, gives this item from James Evans. "On Friday morning, Aug. 13, about