

Historical Sketch.

THE site of the present town had been an Indian village for centuries, and became about sixty years ago the home of the Rama Indians, under charge of a Methodist missionary. When they were removed to Rama, the Church of England bought the Council Chamber and the house of Chief Yellowhead, and settled a Clergyman in the place, with the Council Chamber as a place of worship.

The Presbyterian people were entirely neglected until after the arrival of the late DR. ROBERT BURNS, in 1845, as minister of Knox Church, Toronto. Deeply impressed by the powerful appeal on behalf of the Presbyterian settlers about Orillia, and in the surrounding townships, sent to him when Secretary of the Glasgow Colonial Society, in 1839, DR. BURNS visited the place and the surrounding townships.

He and DR. URE, of Goderich, and DR. GRAY, were the only Presbyterian ministers who conducted service in the place, previous to 1851. In that year Orillia was selected as the centre of a large missionary district, embracing ten townships, in whole or in part, and DR. GRAY was ordained there on the 21st of May, 1851. The beginning was a very humble one. The ministers present were the late PROFESSOR HENRY ESSON, of Knox College, and the late REV. THOMAS LOWRY, who was then minister of Barrie. The place of meeting was a room in what is now the Orillia House, which was then a frame building. This room, kindly given by the late JAMES QUINN, was fitted up in a very plain manner. Steps were immediately taken to erect a church, and the present site