



KINGSTON, ONT.

divine service on June 3rd, 1795.

The REV. JOHN STUART—*nomen clarum et venerabile*—and the Church at Kingston call for a somewhat extended notice: for here is the true fountain-head of Church membership in Upper Canada. The Kingston of 1785-1811 was truly an oasis in the desert. In strange contrast to the arid dearth of Church principles which characterised even the motherland at that period, there were in Kingston men to whom the Church of England was, not merely a department of the state, but the kingdom of God on earth. The names of Stuart, Cartwright, Macaulay and Strachan are inseparably associated with this epoch of Kingston history—names brilliant alike in the State as in the Church. Of the one hundred Church families in Upper Canada, as estimated by Mr. Cartwright in 1792, no less than thirty were clustered together at Kingston. To these in 1784 came the Rev. John Stuart on a brief visit in the regular discharge of his duties as chaplain to the Royal Regiment of New York. During that summer he had made a tour through all the settlements of loyalists even as far as the Mohawk reservation near Niagara, and taking Kingston on the return trip to Montreal, he “remained there some days, and baptized several children, and buried one.” This was about a year before he took up his permanent residence at Kingston. Born in 1740, a native of Pennsylvania and educated at a college in Philadelphia (from which he received his degree of D. D. in 1799); ordained in 1770 by Dr. Terrick, Bishop of London, and sent immediately as a missionary to the Mohawks, to whom he ministered for eleven years till the War of Independence drove him and his flock into exile; having meanwhile, with the assistance of the celebrated Indian chief, Joseph Brant, translated the Prayer Book and the Gospel of St. Mark into the Mohawk language—he had arrived at the mature age of 45 when called to that work

to which he was destined to devote the next quarter of a century. It is somewhat singular that his first two recorded official acts should be the baptism of his own son Andrew and that of James Cartwright, the very two young men whose shining worth led Dr. Strachan, while master of the school at Cornwall, to dedicate to them his book entitled “The Christian Religion Recommended.” The latter of these brought his most promising career to an early close by his death in October, 1811, within two months after that of Dr. Stuart himself.

From 1787 to 1793, Canada formed part of the diocese of Nova Scotia, and accordingly in 1789 Dr. Stuart

was appointed the ecclesiastical commissary of Bishop Inglis for Upper Canada. In 1793 Canada was brought under more direct episcopal supervision by the consecration of Dr. Jacob Mountain as Bishop of Quebec. In April of the same year St. George’s Church, an unpretending wooden structure of 40 by 32 feet, containing 37 pews, was opened for divine service, Capt. Robert Macaulay and Mr. Peter Smith being the churchwardens. To the former was born this year the son who afterwards became the Honorable John Macaulay, and the next year his son William, afterwards the Rev. Wm. Macaulay, Rector of Picton, in all probability the first Canadian ever admitted to holy orders in our branch of the Church. Among other names of men distinguished in after life who were baptized by Dr. Stuart are those of James Gamble Geddes, Rector of Hamilton and Dean of Niagara, and Thos. Brock Fuller, first Bishop of Niagara, who had for one of his sponsors General Isaac Brock, the hero of Queenston Heights. Dr. Stuart may truly be said to have died in harness, for his last recorded official act was a marriage solemnized on August 3rd, 1811, and his death occurred on the 15th of the same month at the age of 71.

His son and successor, George O’kill Stuart, who had been Rector of York (where he was succeeded by Dr. Strachan), lived to become the first Dean of Ontario in 1862, in which year he died after fulfilling over half a century as Rector of Kingston. Did time and space permit, much that is full of interest might be put on record respecting that long pastorate, but we must forbear. Let it suffice to say that up to 1827 Mr. Stuart was the Bishop of Quebec’s official for Upper Canada and Archdeacon of York; that in 1823 measures were taken to replace the old wooden structure, which for thirty years had been doing duty as St. George’s Church, with a building better adapted to the altered condition of things; that in 1827 the new