



MR JOHN ALEXANDER

Bell, M. A. a young man fresh from the university. The call was given in May but as we had yet no church building of our own, the Presbyterians having had the use of the Congregational church for some time previous, the induction of the new minister was deferred until the following winter. Meanwhile, steps were taken for the erection of a new church.

The man of the hour in connection with the church building was Mr. John Alexander, whose big frame, genial countenance and broad Aberdonian accent, will still be remembered by some of our people. He was architect, building committee, treasurer—everything. The church was a nice, comfortable, well finished frame building, and reflected credit on the good taste and enterprise of the small and comparatively poor congregation who took the task in hand. Thanks largely to Mr. Alexander's activity and management, the building was finished before the close of the year. The church opening, with the ordination and induction, took place on Dec. 28th, 1868. The preacher on the occasion was Dr. Cochrane, of Brantford, one of the most famous preachers in the country 40 or 50 years ago.

The joint pastorate of Molesworth and Listowel continued until 1876 when they parted company to form two separate congregations, Mr. Bell remaining in charge of Listowel. At the formation of the congregation under Mr. Renwick two elders were appointed, Mr. Samuel Davidson and Mr. D. M. Gordon, who with the minister constituted the session for about 8 years, or until Knox church separated from Molesworth. Among those who were active in the temporal affairs of the church in the early days, two names are prominent, Mr. Alexander, already mentioned, and Mr. John Binning. These were followed by Dr. Nichol, D. D. Campbell, B. F. Brooke, W. E. Binning, J. H. McDonald and many others, whose names might be mentioned did space permit.

At this time the minister's stipend was \$700. There were 132 names on the roll. The church was then, and for a few years afterwards, on the augmented list, becoming self supporting about 1880.

As may be supposed not many of those who were in the church in those early days are yet alive, however, we are able to count upwards of a dozen of those who were members of Knox church, or in the active work of the church over 40 years ago, who still survive. Rev. J. W. Bell, now living retired in Toronto; Mr. and Mrs. A. Henderson, Mr. and Mrs. D. D. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. C. Brown, Mrs. John Thompson and Mrs. Alex. Rae, in Listowel; Mr. A. B. Gordon, in Elma; Mrs. Wm. Anderson, in Grey



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