

called,—of sustaining these meetings, and making them interesting and profitable rested upon him.

These humble meetings were not in vain, the promise made to the "two or three" was honoured by the Promiser who heard their prayers and made their little meeting, like many another prayer meeting in those days, the *nucleus* from which the future congregation of West Caledon took its rise.

Here again Mr. Crichton was honored as the chief instrument for greatly increasing the religious privileges of the settlement. He drew the attention of the Rev. A. Bell, then about to be settled in the township of Toronto, to the destitution that existed in Caledon and neighboring settlements, and pressed him to make them an early visit. The result was a regular course of monthly visits, on week days, continued for some years, till Caledon was supplied with the stated administration of Gospel ordinances for itself.

During the period of Mr. Bell's visits, the congregation of West Caledon was organized, and in April 1831, Mr. Crichton was unanimously elected and duly ordained to the office of the eldership.

Their first minister was the Rev. D. McMillan, now of Lobo, he was ordained over them in May, 1831. He was then young and of but little experience.

His pastoral charge embraced not only the whole of Caledon but also a good part of three other adjoining townships. The fragments of it have now grown up into several flourishing congregations. His young pastor felt himself early drawn towards Mr. Crichton as one on whose integrity he could place the utmost confidence, and on whose calm but sound judgment he could rely, and the experience of many years served only to confirm the correctness of the estimate of his character thus early formed.

In his own quiet, unobtrusive way, Mr. Crichton was unwearied in his efforts to promote the good of the congregation. He was at once elder, Session clerk, precentor, manager and treasurer. It cannot be doubted that so many offices held by him together, and that for years, made a large demand on his time and labors, but he never complained. To him it was emphatically "a labor of love."

He was appointed to the commission of the peace in 1838. But so far was he from taking advantage of the follies of his neighbors to add to his own pecuniary resources, as was often done in those days, that his position as a magistrate was the occasion of positive loss to him, owing to the unselfish manner in which he discharged the duties of it. He, however, took advantage of a favorable opportunity that offered to retire from an office which he found to be uncongenial to his quiet and peace-loving spirit.

Mr. Crichton like many others then thought himself rich with fifty acres of land. This did very well, till he saw his two sons growing up to manhood. He saw then that he must make up his mind either to see them leaving him to seek their fortunes elsewhere, or else exchange his little farm for a larger one in some newer part of the country. The last alternative he wisely chose, and as the late Rev. J. McKinnon, whom he highly esteemed, was then minister of Owen Sound congregation, he directed his attention to that quarter, and regarded it as a special Providential favor to be enabled to secure a home near that place and within reach of a ministry in which he had full confidence and from which, by the blessing of God, he looked for much spiritual good. Thither, therefore, he removed with his family in 1851, soon after he was inducted into the same office there that he