

For the history of the Methodist Church in London South we return thanks to Mrs. A. Westman, of Craig street, as we copy in part from manuscripts given us by that lady as follows.

As a great number of the members and adherents of Askin strees Church know but little of the rise and progress of that church, I have for the pleasure it has been to myself and the benefit it may prove to others, endeavored to give as briefly as possible its history, so that all might become conversant with the pleasures, trials and difficultiet which the Lord in His wisdom has permitted some of the older mem- bers to see and experience.

In October of the year 1874, the trustees of the North street Church chose a site in Westminster Township for a Methodist meet- ing house, and awarded the erection of the edifice to Mr. Thos. Green, who rushed it to completion. Prior to, and during the months that it was in process of building, the services of the talented and now sainted Dr. Freshman, (a converted Jewish rabbi), were procured, to hold services in the old Askin school house. Dr. Fresh- man, by his zeal and indefatigable labor, advanced the cause of Methodism by leaps and bounds. His efforts may be better under- stood when the fact is known that his first congregation amounted to six in number. Under his ministrations God prospered it abun- dantly, and all longed for the day when their new church would be ready for occupancy, as the old school house was far too small to hold their increasing numbers. On the second Sabbath in January, 1875, it was arranged to hold the first services in the new church, Dr. Freshman being instrumental in securing the services of the Rev. James Elliott, then of Montreal, formerly of London, (and under whom the doctor had been converted), to preach the dedica- tion sermon. At this juncture, our hearts were saddened by the ac- cidental death of the beloved Dr. Freshman, who was killed in the following manner :