

In 1872, the Rev. Mr. Grout removed from Stirling to the parish of Carleton Place. During his incumbency of Stirling, which lasted seven years, the Mission comprised the villages of Stirling, Marmora and Frankford, together with the adjoining townships. To him succeeded Rev. John Halliwell, who, up to 1871, had been a preacher of the Episcopal Methodists. He took charge of the Mission as Mr. Grout left it. It was now felt that efforts should be made to pay off the mortgage on the Church. A subscription list was circulated with this object in view. On the 12th July, 1874, a pic-nic was given by the Orangemen, the proceeds of which were to go towards the Church debt. This pic-nic was numerously attended, and a large amount is supposed to have been received. At the previous Easter Vestry Meeting Mr. Halliwell, at his urgent request, was appointed Treasurer of the Church. He also undertook the Sexton's duties. So the whole of the Church finances were at his disposal. After the pic-nic he announced publicly from his place in the Church that the debt had been reduced by \$650. This same year Mr. Halliwell had commenced the erection of a handsome house, his own private property. The congregation of St. John's Church, Stirling, being under the impression that they were paying off their debt, were well satisfied, and Mr. Halliwell was very popular. But, just at this juncture, one of the Churchwardens, who was also one of the collateral securities for the debt on the Church, received a letter from the mortgagee stating that neither principal nor interest had been paid for some time, and demanding an explanation. The Churchwarden was astonished at such a statement, but came to the conclusion that the money had been deposited in the Bank at Belleville and was lying there. But, upon enquiry being made, it was found that no money had been deposited to the account of the debt. The Churchwarden next privately requested an explanation from Mr. Halliwell, but was curtly informed that "It was none of his business." A meeting of the Vestry was called, and the two Churchwardens were appointed to audit Mr. Halliwell's accounts. But Mr. Halliwell refused to submit the accounts to them. Several other Vestry meetings were called, but Mr. Halliwell would never attend. On a certain Sunday, from his place in the