

CHAPTER IV

DR. JOHN BAYNE, "FATHER OF THE FREE CHURCH"

I BARELY had got seated in the chair editorial when brought into contact with one of the most remarkable men I ever met—the Rev. John Bayne, D.D., one of the first ministers of Galt.

He was born in the west parish of Greenock, Scotland, on the 16th November, 1806, and came to Canada in 1834. His father was the Rev. Kenneth Bayne, A.M., minister of the Gaelic chapel in that city. On his mother's side he was also of staunch Scottish Presbyterian stock, and was educated at Glasgow and Edinburgh universities, where he passed a very brilliant academical course. After preaching in St. Andrew's Church, Toronto, during the absence of the Rev. W. T. Leach (afterwards the Venerable Archdeacon Leach, of Montreal) in Great Britain, he was called to, and became the minister of St. Andrew's Church, Galt, during the following summer.

On his first arrival in the then little village he resided for some time in my father's house, and I therefore knew him from childhood. I was, however, brought into contact with him in a special manner at this time, in consequence of a lecture he delivered for