

so doing, as it had not then produced the evil results which it gradually manifested later. Mr. Burtch, however, abandoned its sale; and from the strong stand he took in church discipline—especially in the use of this article—we may presume that he dropped it from conscientious convictions. They continued, however, to keep a boarding-house; for, during the erection of the old St. Paul's brick church in 1833, they boarded fourteen of the workmen, besides others.

I have been informed by those who remember him well that in his prime, no man in the settlement could accomplish more work than he, and that at all gatherings he was champion in the many athletic feats of the time.

As the country became more settled, municipal institutions were introduced. In 1839 the large and, at that time, handsome, Woodstock Court-house was erected, (only recently demolished to make room for the present graceful structure). The courts for the "District of Brock" were held there. The first County Council was held in the court-house the 8th of February, 1842. Archibald Burtch represented East Oxford as councillor, and continued three years in succession. We find that as early as 1811 and 1812, he occupied for two years in succession, the position of Town Clerk, Assessor and Collector, for "Oxford on the Thames," and it is possible even earlier; for a minute has been found in an old township book dated in 1800, that "a town meeting was held," but no particulars are given as to the work done. I have not learned whether he occupied the position of Village Councillor or School Trustee in Woodstock, after its incorporation, but believe it quite probable. In 1851 he was appointed a Justice of the Peace, but was seldom called upon to act in that capacity: either in performing the marriage ceremony or in the matter of justice, as there were other magistrates more ambitious for prominence in that respect.

Mr. Burtch was a life-long reformer, and specially attached to the Hon. Francis Hincks, who made Mr. Burtch's house his home during his many campaigns in the County of Oxford. He was also a progressive and public-spirited citizen, giving of his means and labors abundantly to every commendable enterprise. To the G. W. R. Company he gave ten acres of land running across his whole farm. To the old Woodstock and Lake Erie