

## *Introductory*

In memory of the dead and gone pioneers, to whose self denial and anxiety to have the word of God kept always before their eyes, we owe much of the civil and religious freedom we enjoy as a people to-day. This sketch is written in the hope that it may stimulate us, their successors, to work harder for the good of humanity. It is a difficult matter after the lapse of fifty years, to prepare a sketch free from all mistakes, and there are no doubt facts omitted which would be interesting, if we only knew them.

ARCH. MACCOLL.



## *The People*

While fifty years does not seem such a long period of time to look back upon, yet it means more than half the time since the first settlement of our township. While Presbyterianism has been at home in the present church for fifty years, that

period does not by any means cover the history of the Presbyterian Church in Aldborough, and it may be wise to review the earlier history of the church here to fully understand what has been accomplished.

In 1816 the first three families to settle in the Talbot settlement in this township arrived from Caledonia, N.Y., where they had lived for a few years, having emigrated from Scotland. Not liking the Yankee form of Government, they decided to again take up their residence under the British flag. These were Alexander Forbes, Neil Haggart and Archibald Gillies and their families. The late Mrs. Buchan was a daughter of Mr. Gillies and through her the family are widely connected in the district. The Forbes family have a few descendants left. The Haggerts moved to Harwich, where a few of their descendants still survive. All of these people were followers of the established Church of Scotland, better known in Canada as the "Auld Kirk." In 1817 three more families arrived, who were also Presbyterians in their religious belief. From 1818 to 1820 a large rush of population