



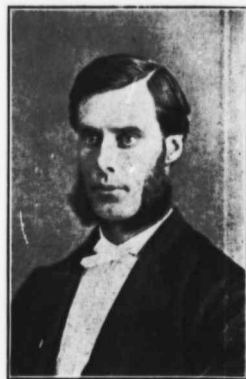
REV. ROBERT RENWICK

## EARLY DAYS

THE history of most of our village and country churches is like that of most countries, it goes back beyond the period of written records. Men and women living their lives, doing things, in a word making history before there was anyone with leisure or opportunity to record it, so that we are dependent on local tradition for our knowledge of the events and happenings of those older times. It would appear that, as in other places, as soon as a dozen or more Presbyterian families had made their homes in the new settlement there was a desire for religious services after the order to which they had been accustomed, so we find that ministers from the older parts of the country came in and preached to the little band of Presbyterians, dispensed the communion, baptized their children, gave them instruction and encouragement and endeavoured to keep them together until there would be enough of them to form a congregation. These preaching services were generally held in the houses or barns of the people, sometimes in the open air. As more families were settling in the growing village and in the surrounding country it was felt that the time had come when an attempt should be made to organize themselves into a congregation. In 1863 the four communities of Monkton, Elma Centre, Molesworth and Listowel were united and gave a call to Rev. R. Renwick, a young man lately come to the country, a graduate of one of the Scottish universities.

MR. RENWICK'S MINISTRY.—Mr. Renwick was ordained and inducted into the four-fold charge by the Presbytery of Stratford and continued to minister to his extensive parish until 1868 when a new arrangement of the field was made. Monkton and Elma Centre were formed into a charge, over which Mr. Renwick was placed. He continued to minister to this double charge for some years, when it again was divided, Mr. Renwick remaining in charge of Elma Centre which now came to be known as Atwood. He continued in charge of the Atwood church for a few years, when he retired, going back to his native land where he died about twenty years ago. He was a fine type of the old fashioned Scotch minister, somewhat easy going but always interested in the welfare of his people, by whom he was much beloved.

MOLESWORTH AND LISTOWEL.—These two congregations united in giving a call to Rev. J. W.



REV. J. W. BELL, M. A.