

## ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, LEASKDALE

In the early half of the 19th century small bands of settlers from Scotland, England and Ireland made their way into Canada and settled in the township of Scott. Like their ancestors in the old land they dearly loved their church and school, and the first things they thought of on their arrival were a place of worship and a place to educate their children. At that time the only Presbyterian Church within reasonable distance was the Kirk at Quaker Hill which belonged to the established Church of Scotland. Here, therefore, some attended on the "Means of Grace," while others who were not in much sympathy with the established Church drove all the way to Utica or to Wick, while a few attended services conducted by a Reverend D. MacKay of Hamilton, sometimes in the houses of the people in the village of Leaskdale, but more often in the barns.

This state of things did not long satisfy the settlers of Scott, so they decided to unite their forces, form themselves into a congregation, and have a minister of their own.

In the year 1861 the first step towards this desirable state of matters was taken.

In October of that year a meeting was held. At this meeting it was resolved to petition Presbytery that they be organized into a congregation, and commissioners were appointed to bring the matter before that venerable court.

The Presbytery cordially received the delegation, and appointed a committee to visit Scott. This committee after careful consideration recommended that a congregation be