

STORY OF THE MISSION OF STIRLING.

THE Mission of Stirling is one of the oldest in the Diocese of Ontario, and used to be looked upon as a desirable preferment. It embraced originally the villages of Stirling, Marmora and Madoc, and the Townships of Rawdon, Marmora, Madoc and parts of the Townships of Sydney and Huntingdon. In 1861, during the incumbency of the late Rev. J. A. Preston, Madoc was constituted a separate Mission. The Incumbent of Trenton used to hold monthly or fortnightly services at the village of Frankford, in the township of Sydney, half way between Stirling and Trenton; but, in or about 1860, he abandoned this Station, and the Rev. Mr. Preston took it up. From thence forward up to 1876, Frankford formed part of the Mission of Stirling. The congregation there was always small, and the Incumbents of Stirling received little or no remuneration.

In 1859, the congregation of Stirling built a beautiful Gothic Church, at a cost of \$5,000. At its completion, the building was mortgaged for the sum of \$1,200, bearing interest at nine per cent. per annum. From one cause or another, this debt hung over the congregation up to 1877, when it was paid off during the incumbency of the Rev. F. L. Stephenson, now of Almonte. Up to 1874 the Mission of Stirling was going on well, and things were working harmoniously; but now came a sad change, and the (shall we not say) almost ruin of the Church in this part of the Diocese.