

terian congregation was organized and a minister settled over it.

It is not generally known that the Rev. John Bethune who afterwards was twenty-eight years minister of Williamstown, in Glengarry, was here in the winter of 1783-4. The regiment of which he was chaplain, the 84th Highland Emigrant, was quartered on Carleton Island, and some of the men were in Fort Frontenac. The minutes of St. George's Vestry testify that Mr. Bethune visited the Fort at the time and officiated at a marriage there, thus performing the first recorded act of the Protestant ministry in Kingston. The Presbyterians may thus trace their genealogy to the very beginning of British life here. Mr. Bethune was no ordinary man. In the early part of the Revolutionary War he had been chaplain to the troops in the Carolinas, had been taken prisoner, and lost all that he had. Then when the 84th was enrolled in Nova Scotia he became chaplain of it until its disbandment in 1784. Next he is heard of as residing near Oswegatchy. In 1786 he founded St. Gabriel Church in Montreal, the oldest congregation of our faith in that city. Next year he moved to Williamstown where he spent the rest of his life, a period of twenty eight years. Here among the Highland settlers Mr. Bethune built up and consolidated Presbyterianism so that in few parts of Canada is it comparatively stronger. His influence was felt for good in a wide region. He died in 1815.

The next minister that was settled in Eastern Canada, but west of where Mr. Bethune lived and laboured, was the Rev. John Ludwig Broeffle of the Reformed Dutch Church of the United States. There is a fine testimony on record as to the faithfulness of this minister in circumstances that were very trying. Like others in pioneer days he had to endure great labour to bring consolations of the Gospel to those that were in scattered settlements over a wide region, and in addition he was very poorly supported. It is said that his means never exceeded one hundred dollars per annum. He died in 1815, the year in which Mr. Bethune died.

It was in 1798 that the Dutch Classes of Albany commissioned the Rev. Robert M'Dowall and sent him into the infant colony. When he had laboured on this side of the St. Lawrence for a time he was pressed to make Elizabethtown, now Brockville,