

Clerk in October 1883, a position which he filled with great satisfaction.

During these years Presbyterianism in this western part of the Province made such rapid progress that it was found necessary to form a new Presbytery. By order of the General Assembly the Presbytery of London was divided and the western part formed into the Presbytery of Sarnia. The new Presbytery met for the first time, on the second Tuesday in August, 1881, and the Rev. Mr. Duncan of Forest, was honored in being called its first Moderator.

On Nov. 6th, 1884, Mr. Duncan received and accepted a call to St. Andrew's Church, Paisley. The pulpit was declared vacant on Nov. 18th, by the Rev. Hector Currie, B. A., of Thedford, who acted as Moderator during the vacancy.

It was during this vacancy that MacKay Settlement at the request of the Sarnia Presbytery, was separated from Forest and joined to Camlachie, Forest to stand alone and receive help from the Augmentation Fund. This separation went into effect on the first day of May 1885.

On the 20th of May 1885 after a vacancy of six months, the congregation extended a call to the Rev. Robert Scrimgeour. The call was accepted and the induction took place on the 15th of July. Shortly after the induction Mr. Scrimgeour became unable thru illness to attend to his duties, and he resigned the charge on Sept. 8th, 1885, and on Nov. 16th, passed home to his reward. The funeral at Beechwood cemetery was largely attended by a sorrowing congregation. Mr. Scrimgeour was succeeded by Rev. James Pritchard of Manchester, Huron Presbytery, who was inducted on Nov. 25th, 1886. The stipend promised was \$500. Mr. Pritchard was a man of great ability, untiring zeal, and kindly manner and

won a high place in the esteem and confidence of the congregation which he served for twelve years. During these years remarkable progress was made. The membership was doubled, a debt of nearly \$1,000 on the Manse was paid and the congregation became self-sustaining, which status it has since enjoyed. To meet the growing needs of the congregation a further addition to the Session was deemed necessary, and on April 24th, 1887, after being duly elected Neil McColl and John Somerville were ordained to the Eldership. In the following year 1888 the congregation by vote decided to introduce into the service of praise, the use of the organ. As a number were opposed to the innovation, it was decided to use it at the morning service only. On Feb. 9th, 1889, a further addition to the Session was made when John Fisher and Andrew Rae were ordained Elders. A year after the introduction of the organ, a petition signed by a majority of the Congregation was presented, praying for the use in connection with the Psalms of the Hymnal issued by the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The old church home became too small and the congregation set to work to build a larger and more modern place of worship. The lot on which the present building stands was donated to the church by John Shaw, a liberal and true friend of the church for many years. The corner stone was well and truly laid by Charles MacKenzie, M. P. P., on Monday, 29th day of September, 1890, under auspicious circumstances and on the 18th day of October 1891, the beautiful and substantial edifice at present occupied was opened. The Rev. W. A. MacKay, D. D., of Woodstock, preached morning and evening and the Rev. Wm. Hayhurst of the Methodist church, Forest, preached in the afternoon. The pastor conducted