

Editorial Articles.

MEMORIAL NOTICE OF THE REV. LUDWICK KRIBS.

The Rev. Ludwick Kribs, a very excellent likeness of whom, as he appeared in his later days, we present as a frontispiece to this issue of the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT, was of German stock, and was born in the township of Barton, near Hamilton, on the 19th February, 1812. His father, David Kribs was, as I have seen it stated, out in the war of 1812, and commanded a company of militia. He was a farmer. Some years later, during the boyhood of our friend, the father moved to the then new township of Eramosa, in the County of Wellington. It has been stated that the first "Township-meeting" ever held in Eramosa, was in the house of David Kribs, in January, 1826. Here Mr. Kribs grew up, following the plough; much to the discredit of the writer in the Apocrapha, who asks, "How can he be wise who followeth the plough, and whose talk is of bullocks?" Still he was twenty-one before his wisdom was properly directed. In the meantime he was very fond of gayety, and of the backwoods "dances," then much in vogue; and he told me once that no one who has not himself been a young man fond of dancing, can imagine the fascination of this thing over the mind of a young man. But at his father's house—as far as I can learn, under the preaching there of some visiting American Presbyterian minister—he was brought to the truth as it is in Jesus, in some revival meetings; and at once began using such gifts as he had, to proclaim salvation to others. The first Congregational preaching in the township, was at his father's house; Rev. Hiram Denny, being the preacher: and the Kribs family became the nucleus of what is now the Congregational Church at Speedside, in Eramosa. The late Mrs. Stephen King, was a cousin of Mr. Kribs, and Rev. Stephen King, afterward his fellow-student, is of the opinion that his wife was the instrumentality used of God to bring Mr. Kribs to himself. The same year, 1833, he married Miss Hagar McMillan. In 1837, Mr. Kribs began to take lessons in Theology, from Rev. Adam

Lillie, then pastor of a small church in Brantford: so that in addition to originating the *telephone*, Brantford has the honor also of originating the Congregational College. In 1838, Mr. Lillie removed to Dundas, and Mr. Kribs accompanied him. Here, Stephen King joined them as a second student. In 1839, Messrs. L. McGlashan and S. Finton were added to the number. Rev. David Dyer, who had been pastor of the Hamilton Congregational Church, and also preached in the Barton Presbyterian Church, removed, and Mr. Lillie was invited to supply the Hamilton Church, and Mr. Kribs to preach in Barton. This continued for a year or more, when in the Autumn of 1840, Mr. Lillie removed the "Theological Institute," to Toronto. Soon James Vincent, Edward Ebbs, and Thos. Hodgkin, joined the student-band. Rev. Stephen King furnishes some reminiscences of these old college days; the students found a prayer-meeting regularly held at the house of Deacon James Wickson. At one of the meetings it was resolved to form themselves into a Congregational Missionary Society. Mr. E. Ebbs was the first secretary; and Mr. S. King, the first treasurer. Mr. King then made a money-box, and each of the members "agreed to put into this box not less than *one penny each week, and as much more as we could get.*" During this winter (1840-41), Rev. John Climie was doing mission work in Innisfil, Nottawasaga, etc., travelling on foot to reach his preaching stations. Hearing of this, this Missionary Society resolved to buy him a horse and saddle, which they did at a good deal less than the regulation price of horses in these days. The horse and saddle stood them \$30, and were duly sent up North to Mr. Climie. Mr. King says, "This was the first missionary money paid by the first missionary society organized by the Congregationalists in Canada." When student Kribs had finished his college course, the "Missionary Society" gave him \$20. He now moved to the village of Stouffville, where he was soon engaged in building a frame church. He was the builder of several country churches. If my memory serves me rightly—and I think it does—he told me that he was a builder, if not the chief builder of the old frame English Church, that stood on a little round hill at the head of Wyndham Street, Guelph, close by the present post