

cised his ministry throughout the Townships, preaching in school houses, private dwellings, and the open air ; making many long and fatiguing journeys, and receiving almost no temporal recompense for his labours. Then through the failure of his health and the necessities of his family, he retired from the Ministry, and devoted himself to agricultural pursuits.

In 1841 Mr. David Connel, who had just completed his studies for the ministry under Dr. Wardlaw, was induced to visit Brome, and at the urgent request of the Congregationalists there, began his Ministerial labours with them in October of the same year. He was ordained on the 19th of October 1842, and on the 23rd of the same month, a church, the first in the Township, was organized, consisting of fifteen members.

In the exercise of much faith and great self denial, a handsome and commodious church edifice of stone was erected as the spiritual home of this little flock in the wilderness, which was dedicated to God in June, 1843, and was also the first church building in the Township. It was thoroughly modernised and repaired in 1865, and is to-day, with its spacious grounds, as it joins the country cemetery, white with the monuments erected to the memory of the dead, one of the most striking of the country churches.

After three years spent almost exclusively in this field, the pastor removed to Cowansville, which was ten miles distant, where he commenced a mission, preaching every Lord's day, and at Brome once every alternate Sunday. After labouring for thirteen years in these fields Mr. Connel resigned his pastoral relationship at the beginning of 1854, and was succeeded early in the same year by the venerable and Reverend Richard Miles, who had been the first pastor of Zion Church, Montreal. Here, on March the 7th, 1865, death suddenly closed the long and arduous labours of this devoted servant of God, twenty-four years of which had been spent in Canada.

The sister church, at Cowansville, was formed on the 24th of March, 1856, greatly diminishing the membership of the church in Brome, as nearly all the members of the new organization were taken from that church. Moreover, as it seemed necessary that service should be conducted at this place every Lord's day, the parent church at Brome could receive at most but one service a fortnight, and this was once reduced to a monthly engagement. This, of course, opened the doors of both the field and the church building to other denominations, who readily availed themselves of the opportunity of planting their denominational standards.

The history now virtually became the history of the Cowansville Church, though there was never any consolidation of the churches further than the enjoyment of the same pastorates.

The Rev. Thomas Rattray succeeded Mr. Miles almost immediately after his sudden death, and continued in charge until the early part of the year 1856. He was followed by the Rev. Archibald Duff, of Howick, Scotland, who, until the year 1860, when he removed to Sherbrooke, exercised his ministry in this wide yet interesting field, preaching at stated times either in the church at Brome-Corners, or at West Brome, where some of the members resided, and distant from the Church six miles. On Mr Duff's removal to the more important sphere of usefulness at Sherbrooke, the Rev. J. A. Farrar, who had just come to this country from England, assumed the pastorate which he held for about five years, when he removed to the United States. In 1866, the Rev C. P. Watson accepted of a call from the two churches, and made every effort to meet the various interests and claims of this wide field. In the meantime, the station at Brigham which had been occupied by some of his predecessors had increased to such importance that it called for more frequent services which could not be given without withdrawing from the old but less fruitful field at Brome. This course was eventually resolved upon, and Mr. Watson is still the pastor of the flourishing Congregational Churches at Cowansville and Brigham. Since that time, with the exception of a brief period, when experiment was made of receiving service from the minister