

oxen in the forest all night. There were instances in which men carried the wheat (about a bushel) on their backs to the grist mill in Waterloo. In some families, the wheat was boiled and made food of in that way; but the consequence was dysentery, and this led to the use of coffee mills for grinding the wheat. For years no settler had any thing to sell, and a yolk shilling was scarcely ever seen in any person's possession. From these circumstances combined with the large grants of land to non-settlers our Township made, for a number of years, slow progress in being settled.

"The founding of the town of Guelph in 1827 or 1828, by the Canada Company, through the agency of the celebrated Galt, enabled the settlers in Eramosa to make a start in the direction of prosperity, and for the last sixteen years the progress has been so great in improvement that our Township is scarcely behind any other in agricultural improvement, fine stock, standings, and dwelling houses. The Sheriff scarcely ever gets anything to do in Eramosa.

"There was for many years no tavern in the Township to tempt the first settlers to dissipation and thriftlessness; and this together with their having generally the unspeakable advantages of an early religious education, is, we doubt not, the great secret of the prosperity of Eramosa.

In the year 1826, the settlers in this part of the Township feeling painfully the want of public ordinances of religion, met in Mrs. McCormack's house, and resolved to seek the services of Mr. James Black, of the Baptist Church, in preaching to them. The religious destitution was at that time so great that sectarianism or denominationalism was scarcely thought of. For a considerable time Mr. Black preached once every two weeks to the people in this part of the Township; but as they were not inclined to join the Baptist Church, they, at last, parted with Mr. Black, while entertaining the highest respect for his piety and labours to win souls to Christ. It was also in 1837, that the first week-day school was opened and Sabbath School teaching commenced.

"For some time after Mr. Black left, the people in this settlement had very seldom any preaching. In the year 1832 a number of the people in this place applied to the Synod of Upper Canada for sermon, and preachers were sent now and then to preach to them. At last, in the year 1834, Mr. Charles Nichol was settled pastor of the congregation, and after remaining for about two years he gave up his charge. It was during his pastorate that the now old meeting house was erected; and it was at that time one of the finest churches in the county. For some time after Mr. Nichol had left, the congregation was supplied with sermon by preachers from the Upper Canada Synod, and other communities. The congregation, however, became dissatisfied with the state in which they then were, and connected themselves, on the 2nd of August, 1838, with the United Secession Church of Scotland. The Rev. Thomas Christie and the late Rev. James Roy, from that period to the end of 1842, preached to the congregation a few times yearly and dispensed the sacraments. In 1841, a branch of the Bible Society was formed in this place.

"In the beginning of 1843, I was settled pastor of the congregation, and also of the congregation in the Irvine settlement. The agreement was, the Eramosa congregation was to have two Sabbath's preaching for the Irvine congregation's one: but there were so few preachers of the United Secession in the Province in those days, that I had very frequently to supply other congregations; consequently, both congregations but slowly increased in membership. The greatest number of hearers which I had in this congregation, during the first year of my pastorate, was forty-five, including children. The membership of this congregation, when I became pastor, was 32. It is now 148. In 1848 a manse was built, and, in the winter of 1849, I was loosed from the charge of the Irvine congregation, and this congregation became my sole charge. Since that time, a glebe of 60 acres has been purchased and paid for, and during the past year this beautiful edifice has been erected; and if all the subscriptions were paid, and we feel confident that they will all be paid, there will not be a cent of debt on the whole congregational property. Truly may we of this congregation exclaim, What