

together and resolved to make application to the U. P. Presbytery of London, composed of such pioneers as Rev. Messrs Proudfoot, Skinner and Mackenzie. A petition was prepared and signed by 104 persons in Downie, Blanchard, Fullarton and Nissouri, praying the Presbytery to organize a congregation under the oversight of the Presbytery. In response to this request, the Presbytery which met at English Settlement on October 14, 1844, appointed Rev. Jas. Skinner and Jas. Frazer to visit Blanchard, and examine those of the petitioners not already members of the Secession as to their qualifications for membership, and to get from them an accession to the principles of the Secession Church. These two gentlemen held meetings with the people on December 31, 1844, the community assembling in the shanty of Jas. Muir, where they listened to the words of life from the lips of Rev. Jas. Skinner. On February 4, 1845, this committee reported to the Presbytery met in London, so favorably, that the request of the petitioners was granted, and the new congregation was organized. At this meeting Rev. A MacKenzie was appointed to preach to the new congregation and to preside at the election of elders. At London, April 30, Mr. MacKenzie reported that he had preached at Blanchard, four miles east of St. Mary's, on the forenoon of February 24, and at St. Mary's in the afternoon. On the following day four elders were elected at St. Mary's, viz.: Wm. McGregor, Jas. Muir, Duncan McVannel and Jas. Swan. On July 16, 1845, Mr. Skinner reported that he had preached in Blanchard and had ordained four elders. He was then appointed to dispense the Lord's Supper in Blanchard, on August 10, 1845. It was not, however, until 1847 that the