

a salutary effect, in checking that widely spread *mania* for writing and publishing books, many of which are not very creditable to their authors, nor very beneficial to the church.

The Conference of 1812 was appointed to be held in Niagara, Canada, but in consequence of the war, was held in the old barn where it was held in 1810. Not a name which appears in these first Minutes of the Genesee Conference, as laboring in Canada, is now to be found in our annual Minutes; the last, and which appeared longest and as occupying positions of honor and responsibility, was that of the venerable William Case, whose departure from among us is noticed in the Minutes of 1856.

With a few exceptions, these pioneers were men of more than ordinary physical symmetry and strength, and imposing bodily presence. Many of them of course we never saw, but most of those that we have seen were of this class, and we may instance Sawyer, Bangs, Case, Ryan, Prindle, Whitehead, Madden, &c., &c. When not possessed of great power of endurance their race was short, as the toil, privation, and exposure could scarcely be endured but by men of robust health and sound constitution. When they commenced their self-denying labors in Upper Canada they found about 50,000 inhabitants, of all ages, and of different countries, scattered along the banks of the St. Lawrence,—Bay of Quinte,—Head of Lake Ontario, and Niagara River,—On the Thames and Detroit River, many of the latter were French Roman Catholics,—the majority of the whole were nominal Protestants. The church of England at this period had four or five Ministers. The Dutch Reformed Church had one, as had the Lutheran Church, and Presbyterian,—a considerable number of the population were Baptists who had four ministers, and on the St. Lawrence and the Bay of Quinte were a few Methodists, from Europe and the United States. These settlers lived in a state of unusual seclusion, having had but little intercourse with the world. Most of the men of the Colony had seen war and witnessed its horrors. Some fought under General Wolfe, at Quebec, but a larger number beheld it in its worst and direst form,—civil war. From love to the Laws and Institutions of England, they had taken up arms in their defence, and against their fellow colonists. But they fought on the unsuccessful side, and the victors hated them with that intense hatred, only generated in such conflicts, and they were induced or compelled to seek a home and shelter in these distant forests. If ever they had religious training and religious emotion, and performed religious duty, the emotions had become dormant, and the holy practices of religion were forgotten or discontinued; they were literally asleep in sin and debased by iniquity. Their feelings were also embittered by a sense of their sufferings, their toils, and their losses; and no man