

Street United Presbyterian church," and continued to be used until 1878, when the congregation, having taken the name of "Erskine church," removed to the building then erected, and which it now occupies, in Caer Howell Street.* Central church had, in 1875, been formed by members removing from Bay Street congregation.

On the death of Rev. Mr. Proudfoot, the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church in Canada applied to the Mission Committee of the Church in Scotland, to recommend "a person or persons in their view qualified to fill the office of professor," a request which led to the recommendation of the Rev. Dr. John Taylor. At the meeting of the Canadian Synod in April, 1852, he was unanimously invited to accept the office, which he did, coming to Toronto in June of that year. During the negotiations which led to his invitation, questions arose as to where the new professor should reside, and as to his being also a pastor of a congregation. The Mission Committee recommended, "that in present circumstances of the Church in Canada he should have a pastoral charge," and that "he be directed to go to Toronto and reside there, till he obtains a charge in a place of which he shall approve, and which he shall regard so central as to be fitted for answering the ends of his appointment."

This recommendation probably strengthened the opinion which some had begun to entertain, that the time had come when there was room for another congregation in the city. At all events, on 25th January, 1853, four members of Bay Street congregation, John Plenderleith, Robert Bell, Alexander Gemmell and John Cameron, met "to consider the propriety of taking steps necessary to the formation of a second congregation in this city under the Toronto Presbytery of the United Presbyterian Church," and the conclusion they came to was "that immediate steps be taken for the formation of said congregation." A petition to the Presbytery

* To Mr. John Young of the Bible and Tract Society, for many years and still an honoured elder in Erskine church, thanks are due for information as to its early history.