

## SARNIA METHODISM

Another ancient record gives the following—"St. Clair: The Colonial Government failed to elevate, owing to nomadic habits, these Indians. They then called upon the Wesleyan Missionary authorities of England, to undertake missionary work among them. In accordance with the invitation of the Canadian Government, they sent Thomas Turner in 1832."

The Christian Guardian of Aug. 1, 1832, gives the following item from Rev. Robert Alder, missionary secretary of the English Wesleyan Missionary Society in Upper Canada. "The appointment of Thomas Turner to St. Clair was made by the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Committee, before it knew of Sir John Colborne asking such to be done."

The appointment of our first stationed Methodist minister seems to have been a modern case of Cornelius and Peter, two lines converging by the guidance of God.

Indian Agent Jones records under date, "July 11, 1832, the arrival of Rev. Thomas Turner some days ago."

Thus in early July, 1832, came the first Methodist minister by appointment of the Church authorities, to organize, establish and build up a Methodist Church on the foundation laid by Rev. Peter Jones and others during three years of desultory labors.

For some time, Rev. Mr. Turner and family lodged on the American side, while Mr. Jones had "a log house finished as a dwelling, and an old log house repaired as a study."

Rev. Thomas Turner labored and others gathered the fruits. For two years he did heroic service, and in the end, had little to show for it, save foundation laying.

On Aug. 1st, 1833, Mr. Jones gives the following testimony of Mr. Turner and his work:—"I beg to assure His Excellency that no intimacy is wanting between Mr. Turner and me, and I have no reason to disapprove of any measure that he has heretofore adopted in his capacity of missionary to this establishment."

Not alone to the Indians, but also to the white settlers, did Thomas Turner minister.

Henry J. Jones, son of Henry Jones, founder of "Maxwell," the communistic settlement in Sarnia Township on Lake Huron, records in his diary in 1833, the visitation of Mr. Turner to their settlement, also when riding on horseback from Adelaide to Warwick—"Met Mr. Turner, missionary, on my way, who had been thrown over the head of his horse into a mud hole."

It is evident from these brief glimpses, our first minister magnified his office, and vindicated his appointment by carry-