

door, and I had a fine thorough-bred colley, whose house was close to the door, but she would not make friends with the Indians at all. Even when I ordered her into her house she lay and growled and showed her teeth. They killed a great many deer, and stayed almost till spring. A winter or two afterwards another lot of them camped near the village, but of a very different character, being drunken, thieving fellows, and the people in the village were in constant fear of them, and heartily glad when they took themselves off. I have seen a great many Indians both at Quebec and here, and I must say I do not think a great deal of them. The men seem to care very little except for fishing, shooting and trapping, and certainly generally speaking make poor farmers. The women seem more industrious than the men, but it seems to be the will of Providence that they should gradually disappear as the white man gets possession of the country. The settlement near Quebec of Huron Indians is a very poor place, and there is scarcely a pure Indian-blooded family in the place. I visited a large camp once at Pointe Levi, where they had assembled to get their annual presents, and I must say they were a wild looking, dirty, ragged lot, though I daresay before they left they would be much improved with their nice new blankets and showy calicoes. To return, however, to matters affecting Fergus. For two or three years things were very quiet and dull, and the winter of 1842 and 1843 was the longest and severest known in this neighborhood, and there has not been such a winter since, although 1855 and 1856 was nearly as severe. The snow lay from the 14th November, 1842, till the last week in April, 1843, and the first seed sown near Guelph was about the 6th or 7th of May. Towards the end of this year, 1843, the present respected pastor of Melville Church, the Rev. Mr. Smellie, made his first appearance in Fergus. The Rev. Mr. Gardiner died towards the end of the year 1841, and except occasional supplies there had been no regular services in the church, but the late Mr. Fordyce had kept up the wholesome practice of gathering the people together on the Lord's day by reading a sermon in the church and conducting the customary services of praise and prayer. There is no doubt that poor Mr. Gardiner's last illness was caused by his unwearied exertions, and long rides in very inclement weather. Mr. Smellie was duly placed in December, 1843, and has ministered faithfully and acceptably ever since. The disruption of the Established Church in Scotland in 1843 was followed by the disruption of the Presbyterian Church connected with the Scotch Establishment in 1844, and the Presbyterian Church of Canada was then formed, to which body Mr. Smellie attached himself. We have now five churches in the village instead of one, so that there can be little excuse for ignorance of religious things in this place, except the oldest and most prevalent of any, the want of will.

Towards the end of 1844 there was a general election, and a great sensation in Fergus and the whole County of Waterloo, which was the name of our County, as Mr. Webster was determined to beat Mr. Dur-