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EARLY HISTORY OF PRESBYTERIANISM IN KINGSTON AND VICINITY.

IT was in 1783 that Kingston was first settled by those who speak the English tongue. That was twenty years after Canada was confirmed by treaty to Great Britain, and nearly ten years before Upper Canada became a separate colony. It is said that the first child of British parentage was born here in 1783. The name of the child was Clark and there are descendants of his existing here still.

It seems strange at first sight that for more than thirty years after the beginning of British settlement here, the traces of Presbyterians, so far as public records go, are so meagre. That there were Presbyterians among the U. E. Loyalists who settled in Kingston and the district, there is no doubt, but for a generation there was no organization as a Church. Very early the Anglicans entered the field, their way being made smooth by Government patronage. The first rector, Dr. Stuart, was not dependent on his hearers for support, and this has often been the case with his successors. Strangely enough, he as well as the first prelate in Upper Canada, were brought up in the Presbyterian faith. The father of Dr. Stuart was a sturdy Irish Presbyterian, and as is well known, Bishop Strachan was of similar origin. Before the end of last century the Methodists were here in two distinct bodies, British and American. More than twenty years of the present century passed away, as we shall see, ere a Presby-