

than a village, one of the chief shanties being that of James Woods, whose spouse, Nancy Toll, he had already brought home from Raleigh through the newly-slashed Blenheim road, known as the ten mile wood, with their cattle and effects, in terror that nightfall might leave them to the mercy of the wolves—a gentleman and lady who still enjoy good health in their ripe old age, and in their persons form, perhaps, the only living representatives of the first Talbot Street settlers.

A few years, however, changes the scene. In the fall of 1832 at Whately's was established His Majesty's post office, and the royal mail which had hitherto arrived from Port Stanley at long irregular intervals, straddle the back of Garret Lee's Indian pony Porcupine, now drew up at the captain's at regular periods to the tout of horn, and distributed to needy settlers letters from "folks at home," on which were written 2s. to 4s. postage, to pay which a hat subscription was sometimes necessary. A customs officer followed, in the person of Robert Neilson, implying that trade was already considerable and that smuggling merchants were to be watched. To keep the peace, magistrates had been appointed in 1833 in the persons of Smith, Bell and Warren, who applied fine and penalty; and to bring and toe the mark, commissioners Bell and Smith in 1827, and Whately and Warren 1833-4, let impecunious devils know that the accounts of rapacious store-keepers could not be shirked.

But it is in the decade opening with 1840 that her real history commences. In it the advent of many prominent citizens occur. George Duck makes his debut in 1839-40, and perhaps not much later Wm. Sheldon and W. R. Fellows. Dr. Wallen and others followed. In 1841 was established No. 2 Division Court, with the said George Duck as clerk; and please note it, in 1842 Morpeth received her official name, and that in a peculiar manner. At this period the Anglican Church was rising heavenwards on its beautiful and elevated situation a little east of the village, and means were not over-plentiful for its erection. A fortunate visit of the Earl of Morpeth—a Howard, too, by-the-bye—supplied, it is said, some of the needful, and his lady presented the bell which yet rings sinners to devotions and sometimes parting ones to, we hope, a better land; and could the villagers be blamed? For, be the money story as it may, Big Creek was heard of no more, nor was Jamesville, the name elect of James Cull, the so-called village father and a portion of the people, but Morpeth hereafter bore the present and better designation. At this period, too, for it was in the hall of the same that the event just mentioned was "manipulated," arose Sheldon's tavern, a resort of equal and many respects greater reputation than Dandy Hall, for Mr. Sheldon's personal enterprise, political leanings and great popularity drew towards his famed hostelry many strange and leading characters. Here, it is said, was held the caucus of the Rebs, the disaffected, as they were often called, and here, perhaps, emanated the offer and tender of the nomination to Malcolm Cameron to contest the county in 1847, which he gracefully accepted, and through an address Messrs. Warren, Laidlaw, Ruddle, Coll, Sheldon, Lee, Dr. Wallen and others are thanked therefor, he intimating at same time "that he is to be opposed by the Hon. Solicitor General West (J. H. Cameron,) whose attempt to rob the women of Canada of their dower (because of the difficulty it occasions the legal profession) should have prevented, he would have fancied, from ever showing his face in any part of the Province where ladies reside! . . . In any case I think the electors of Kent will show him that they think differently, and that we have enough lawyers in the House already, as they must sensibly feel from the increased law costs in all the courts," (to which latter sentiment we, the electors of 1884, fully concur.)

(Sg'd), MALCOLM CAMERON."

At this time (April, 1847,) the village contained 6 general stores, 3