

vid Roblin, John P. Roblin and Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald. The last mentioned, though not born in the township, spent a large portion of his early years there and attended the schools. We should naturally conclude, therefore, that the system of instruction pursued by those primitive teachers was not altogether void of merit; or else there was more than an average degree of ability found among their pupils.

It was about the beginning of the present century that teachers found their way so far up the Bay of Quinté as the "sixth" and "seventh" townships. In 1803 a school was opened on the "High Shore," in Sophiasburgh, which is said to have been the first in the County of Prince Edward. Another soon followed, taught by John James, who chose a neighborhood further down the Bay, near Grassy Point. Rev. Wm. Wright, a Presbyterian Minister, was the pioneer teacher at the mouth of Meyer's Creek, where Belleville now stands. He began sometime in 1805, but soon discontinued the work, which did not prove sufficiently remunerative. Shortly after this attempt another missionary in the noble profession reported himself to the benighted denizens of the little village, and received sufficient encouragement to enable him to open a school, which was tolerably successful. The name of this teacher was Leslie, and he is remembered by those still living as a kind, conscientious instructor. Mrs. Perry, a venerable lady of Ernestown, also gives reminiscences of her first school experience, which, upon the whole, differ but little from the preceding narratives. Her teacher was one Smith, who came from "the old country," and who possessed extraordinary qualifications for the times. He taught in the second concession, and established such a reputation as to bring numbers from a distance, which gave his school great *éclat* in that and adjacent neighborhoods. Some of the "first families," who were a favored aristocracy in the estimation of the rough pioneers, even condescended to patronize Mr. Smith, and from this source he derived a good share of his income. But each succeeding year brought an improvement in the financial prospects of the settlers, and this en-

abled them to increase their liberality in the cause of education. When the war of 1812 began, there were a number of good schools, not only at Kingston, but scattered at intervals along the Bay shore, and in some instances at a considerable distance inland. The general interruption which all kinds of business suffered during the continuance of hostilities had its effect upon the schools also, but they soon revived after peace was declared.

A sketch of this nature would be incomplete without a reference to one of the most prominent and successful workers in the extensive field of educational labor which was opened in the new provinces. Rev. John Stuart was the first regular missionary sent to Upper Canada. It was intended that his labors should be principally among the Mohawk Indians, and for this purpose he was chosen by the Church of England, in 1784, and immediately despatched to Cataraqui, where he arrived in the following year. He was born at Harrisburgh, Penn., in 1730, and graduated at the University of Pennsylvania. His father was a Presbyterian minister, and educated his son with a view of preparing him for that Church; but after taking his degree young Stuart seems to have formed strong Episcopalian sympathies, and ultimately joined the society of his choice. This led to an estrangement between father and son, but the former soon perceived the error of his opposition, and gave his consent to the projects in contemplation. Holy orders were conferred upon the young missionary in 1770, at a University in England, whither he had gone for this purpose, and the responsible duties of his mission were soon after entered upon with becoming zeal. Immediately after his arrival in Canada a plan for educating and Christianizing the natives entrusted to his care was submitted to the Legislature, and assistance from that body solicited. This request was liberally responded to, and provisions were made whereby an improved system of instruction was inaugurated. But Mr. Stuart did not confine his superior abilities to the Indian Mission; he was induced to open a school in Kingston, being encouraged by the patronage of all the leading residents. In his capacity, while at the same time the