

REV. STEPHEN CHILDERHOSE



Stephen Childerhose was born July 14, 1858, the eldest son of Henry and Margaret Childerhose of Ross Township. From his earliest recollections he knew what work was and as his strength developed the tasks which he undertook became greater. He attended Ross No. 1 school until fourteen years of age. Then he remained at home to assist his father on the farm for about four years. Later he resolved to enter on a course of study with a view of going into the ministry. Securing a teachers certificate he taught school for a couple of terms and then attended the Collegiate Institute at Kingston, where he matriculated and again taught school for a while. After this he entered Queen's University and took a course in Arts and Theology. His talents were recognized by Principal Grant who took a deep personal interest in him and when he graduated in Arts he was elected valedictorian of his class. After receiving his divinity degree in 1887, he went to Britain, took a post graduate course in Edinburg and in London and then travelled through Europe, climbing Vesuvius and spending Easter week in Rome.

On his return to Canada, he received a call to Madoc where he remained until 1886, when he became Presbyterian Minister at Parry Sound. Here he found abundant opportunity for his great energies and accomplished much. When he went there the property consisted of a poor manse, a small church and the congregation was carrying a debt. His stipend was \$600. When he left there twelve years later, a modern manse had been built and was free of debt, a new church had been built and the stipend raised to \$1200 a year.

In July 1908 Rev. Childerhose was appointed superintendent of Presbyterian Missions in Northern Ontario. He entered on this work with enthusiasm and determination and moved to North Bay. This position gave him scope for his exceptional resourcefulness and his ability for organization. No settlement was too remote for him to visit and if he saw the need for establishment of a mission he met all emergencies and overcame all obstacles. Had