

Priceville Presbyterian Church

HISTORICAL SKETCH

(By John McDonald.)

In view of the Jubilee of the Presbyterian Church, which is expected to take place in June next we shall try and make all endeavors to give a history of the same, as far as memory and information goes, giving names of ministers and students in charge during the last fifty years or more and other related matter. We do not mean to say that we can give an exact and correct history, but will do the best we can under the circumstances, as it is a tedious and difficult task to perform.

Away back in the early fifties we imagine we can remember seeing men and women boys and girls eagerly looking for the Sunday that was announced to have preaching, not in a brick church but an old log barn or small hut, and when the day long sought for came, old men and women put on their best apparel, which at best was very poor, and off they would go on foot for miles on their way rejoicing to be privileged to hear the gospel preached in their native language in simplicity. In the early history of the locality Gaelic was more needed than English for it would be almost safe to ask every person that would come in contact with each other, the general salutation "how are you" in Gaelic "Ciamar tha sibh" and the reply would be "Tha gu maith." It will be remembered that there were two Presbyterian bodies in Priceville, namely, the Free Church and the old Church of Scotland. It was amusing to see the coolness that existed between these two Presbyterian bodies, which in reality were one in this country. For instance, those belonging to the different churches would pass the house where others held service miles away, as if they had different Gods to worship, but the wheel of time turned as will be seen further on in our history.

As personally we belonged to that part called the "Old Kirk" we hope that no one will accuse us of being partial to the one branch more than the other. In the year 1854 the Rev. John McKinnon of Owen Sound Free Church, held an occasional service down the line in some of the houses below here and Durham. Mr. McKinnon was chief superintendent of schools for the County of Grey then. There were no services during winter except services held by the late Rev. Mr. McLure and Mr. McKechnie, Baptists, who held services in McDonald's school house during the winter in the middle of the fifties.

In the year 1857, the late Rev. John Goodwell was sent as student for the Established Church of Scotland for six months preaching both English and Gaelic in McDonald's school house, two miles west of Priceville in the morning and in the afternoon at the school house, then, one mile east of Priceville, now Arch. McDonald's, Artemesia. Mr. Goodwell was a powerful preacher, he also served a short term in the summer of 1858. A Rev. Mr. Lewis from some where down the country also preached occasionally in the latter part of the fifties.

The late Rev. Chas. Cameron was student in 1859, 1860, for the Free Church and was ordained in the year 1861 for the congregation of Durham Road, Glenelg, Rocky Saugeen and Toronto Line.

In 1859 the Rev. Chas. McInnis Cameron was student in the Old Kirk preaching also in McDonald School House, Glenelg, and Old Durham Road, Artemesia. Said house was taken down some forty-five years ago. One of Mr. Cameron's hymns is used in the Book of Praise, being number 347. Mr. Cameron died over thirty years ago.

The late Rev. John Hay, then of Mt. Forest, preached occasionally in the latter part of the fifties and would often walk from Allan Park and be in time to preach at 11 in forenoon in the old schoolhouse one mile east of Priceville.

The Rev. Chas. Cameron held his charge as pastor of the Presbyterian church, being then the Free Presbyterian Church in Canada until 1875 when he resigned the charge so as not to be an obstacle in the way of the approaching union between the two congregations.

In the year 1859 the frame of the Old Kirk was put up, which stood at the cemetery, as it was not finished it served the purpose during the summer months and was finished in a couple of years later on. There were no regular services in the Old Kirk from 1861 to 1866, but special services were held by certain Rev. Gentlemen such as D. Hogg, of Guelph, Rev. Dr. Campbell, Duntroon, Ont., Rev. Dr. Carmichael, of King, Rev. Duncan Morrison, Owen Sound, Rev. Mr. McDonell, Fergus, and others that we cannot think of in the meantime.

The first elders elect were, in the Old Kirk: Dugald McLean, Allan Cameron, John McLachlin and Arch. McBride; in the Free Church the late Neil McCannel, Dugald McInnis, John Stewart and later on Thomas Binnie. All of these gentlemen have gone the way of all living many years ago. About the year 1865 the Free Church building was erected in Priceville being a frame and rough-cast and stood where the present magnificent church stands. At the opening of the church the venerable Dr. Burns officiated who was then an old man of nearly eighty years. Of

all those who were in the meridian of life then, very few are left to celebrate the expected jubilee next summer.

In the year 1860 the Old Kirk was opened and the first entertainment was held on the following Monday evening and was quite a success. On the 1st Sunday of May 1866 the late Rev. Donald Fraser preached his first sermon as a student in the Old Kirk. His text was from the words "stranger on earth." Mr. Fraser received the unanimous call to be pastor of the church and in August, 1867, he was ordained as minister of St. Andrew's Church, Priceville and Proton. He labored till 1875 when he tendered his resignation so as not to be an obstacle in the way of the approaching union. In 1876 and part of 1877 the Rev. Alex. McGillivray, of Bonar church, Toronto, served as a student in the summer months, and the Rev. Alex. McKenzie served in the Free Church during the same time.

In October 1877 a joint meeting of both congregations were called and held in St. Andrew's Church for the purpose of forming a union. The meeting was well represented by both denominations, and when the question of union was approached all were unanimous although some of the "old saints" on both sides felt like giving expression to the words "If I forget thee, oh Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning," for they felt sad and sore at heart to think that the dear old church of their forefathers had to be forsaken and abandoned forever.

Next came the vexed question what was the new united church to be called. One venerable gentleman, whose heart and soul were woven in the Old Kirk, got upon his feet and made the motion that the new church retain the old name given to the church where the meeting was held, being St. Andrew's Church, while another on the opposite side made a proposition that it be called St. Paul's these being the names of the two united churches before union. It showed that selfishness was still existing and was ruled out of order by the chairman. It was then moved by the late Neil McDonald that the new church be called St. Columbia Church. This motion was carried unanimously and that part of the programme was settled upon.

The next and most important part to perform now was the choice of a minister. Two were mentioned, the Rev. Duncan McDonald, then of Creemore, and a Rev. Mr. Stewart. Mr. McDonald was recently an Old Kirk man and Mr. Stewart Free Church. The vote was taken and resulted in favor of Mr. McDonald. So selfishness was still existing as each side on the old score. So this choice was wisely ruled out of order by the authorities of the church. But, however, none of these gentlemen would have accepted a call under the circumstances and the spirit the call was given in. In the summer of 1878 the late Rev. D. McLeod was sent on probation and preached only once. When the next time he was called upon to preach or at least to be present it was at his ordination, for he received the unanimous call of the united congregation and was ordained in August 1878. Many predictions were made by some of the old heads to what church the new pastor be longed to before coming to Priceville. One would say in Gaelic, curriach misgheall ruit gur san English tsaor a bnae mun danig e an so, or in English, I'll bet you be belonged to the Free Church before coming here, and another would say, san don e tsean english a bha e, or he belongs to the old kirk, while others would go as far as to ask him what college he attended and what church he belonged to before coming here. He would simply in reply tell them that there were plenty of questions they might ask him that would be more beneficial to them than to satisfy their inquisitiveness by answering the one asked for. He never made anyone the wiser by telling them. Mr. McLeod was pastor up to his death in Feb., 1897, except for nine months, as he accepted a call to Glengarry, and not agreeing with his health he received the unanimous choice of resuming to his charge in Priceville again at the end of about 9 months' absence. During the time Mr. McLeod was away the pulpit was ably filled by the Rev. Donald McLean, of Tara, being then a student, The Rev. Finlay Matheson, of Chatsworth, served

for part of the summer of 1897, being then a student. In January 1898 the present pastor, Rev. J. A. Matheson, then of Caledon, was asked to come to preach as he had both languages. Complying with the request he preached a couple of Sundays when it was agreed upon to give him a call among a number of others mentioned and the result was that he received more votes than all the others put together and the day of induction was set apart to be on the 30th of March, 1898 when he was ordained to the congregations of Priceville and Swinton Park.

Among those who served as elders (who have gone to their reward some years ago) were the late Arch. McDonald, Jas. McDonald, Allan McLean, John Simpson and John Mather. The present elders are John Nichol, Sr., Dugald McCormick, Alex. Muir, John McDonald Neil McCannel, Donald McDonald and Alex. McLean. Mr. McCannel moved to Durham recently, consequently his place is vacant.

In the year 1887 a subscription list was taken up for the purpose of building a new church and sufficient amount was secured to assure the work to go on the following summer, and in 1878 the contract was let to Watson Bros., and was supervised by Messrs. McCuaig, Neil McKinnon and A. McLeod, three level headed men who saw the contract completed, all according to specification. The church was opened on the first Sunday in January 1899, by the Rev. Professor Caven of Toronto in the English language and by the venerable Dr. Carmichael of King in Gaelic.

In the year 1895 the fine brick manse was erected and the work was superintended by John McArthur, Merchant, John Gowland and the late Rev. Donald McLeod. The contractors were Messrs. Watson and Hector McLean of Priceville, who did their part in a workmanlike manner. Rev. Mr. McLeod just enjoyed the comforts of the new manse for one year, when he was called upon to occupy a room in the House of many Mansions. Six years ago the fine sheds were built and will hold about 80 single rigs. The sheds are 150 feet long double and 70 feet wide



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Is so bracing, and invigorating that it often tends to over exertion, without our being aware of it.

Most of us lead such sedentary lives that when we take much exercise we often feel fatigued and depressed instead of refreshed. At such times a cup of

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will supply the nourishment, and stimulation required, sending a glow through the entire system.

For a change, try it some time with a dash of cold milk.

Add milk to suit your taste as if you were preparing a cup of tea.

making altogether 370 feet of sheds. Much credit is due Dugald McCormick for the manner in which he superintended the work while building the stable at the Manse. Going back again to olden times there was no such an instrument as an organ ever spoken of in our churches and it was a hard matter to find anyone that would undertake to lead a common meter tune, and books of Praise and Hymns were out of question. Now we have nothing else but books of Praise and Hymns, although we stick to the old psalm selections in the mornings and hymns in the evening consequently some of the good old favorite tunes are used yet such as Martyrdom, Stroudwater and so on and we have a good choir under the leadership of Miss Reiley on the organ. Miss Reiley has all the good qualities that go to make a first class organist, as she is possessed of a fine voice, good talent as organist and fine personality. During the nine years of Mr. Matheson's pastorate the following amounts have been paid for missions. In 1898, \$64; in 1899, \$134; in 1900, \$165; in 1901, \$169; in 1902, \$161; in 1903, \$158; in 1904, \$193; in 1905, \$213; in 1906, \$225, also for century fund \$214, making a total of \$1700 for missions and stable and sheds \$884.45. Total number of funerals attended in nine years 159. Number joined church during Mr. Matheson's pastorate 182. No. on roll in 1898-144 and 182=326; present membership 179, removed by death and otherwise 147, net gain in 9 years 35. Total number of baptisms 102.

HONOR ROLL. S. S. No. 1, NORMANBY. IV—Arthur Backus, Willie McAlister, Willie Wallace, Arthur Gadd, Nellie Burns, James Wallace, Robert Webber. Sr. III—Mary Backus, Lizzie Burns, Albert Keller. Jr. III—Bertie Morice, Myrtle Caldwell, Arthur Morice, Dinah Thompson, Thomas Wallace, James Marshall. Sr. II—John Kerr, Walter McAlister, Neila Marshall, Elmer Fee, Henrietta Keller, Grace Mountain, George Webber, Mary McAlister. Jr. II—Melville Morice, Leslie Morice, Harry Caldwell, Annie Dean, Jean Morice. Pt. II—Mabel Wallace, Stanley Mountain. Sr. Pt. I—John Baer, Arthur Mountain. Jr. Pt. I—Dawson Marshall, Andrew Marshall, J. Burns. Pt. I (a)—Maggie Petty. Average attendance, 30. M. M. ADAIR, Meacher.

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IT RINGS IN YOUR EARS.

That same cough is everywhere you go, deep and hollow because consumptive. First it was catarrh which could have been cured by Catarrhzone. Moral, never neglect a cold, never trifle with catarrh, go to your druggist and get Catarrhzone. It's instant death to colds, cures them in a few minutes. Throat trouble and catarrh disappear as by magic. Catarrhzone is the great throat, nose and bronchial remedy today. Thousands use it, doctors prescribe it,—why, because it does relieve quickly and cure thoroughly. Two sizes, 25c and \$1.00 at all dealers.

House and Lot For Sale

ON BRUCE ST., DURHAM, NEW brick house, 30x32; 2 1/2 storeys high; double cellar, cement floor in one half, furnace in the other half. Small barn with stone stable underneath. Convenient to station, Furniture Factory and Cream Separator Works. Will sell cheap to quick purchaser. The owner is going West. For further particulars apply to Wm. LEGGETTE, Box 92, DURHAM, June 14, tt.

For Sale.

LOTS 2 AND 3 OF 15, CON. 1, W. G. R. BENTLEY, Building lot on Bruce St., Durham. Brick house on Bruce St., Durham. Apply to Wm. Leggett, Rocky Saugeen, or John Legate, Durham. Jan. 25, '06 tt.

Farm for Sale.

CONTAINING 100 ACRES, BEING Lot 14, Con. 4, N. D. R., Glenelg. About 85 acres cleared, balance in good hardwood bush. Well watered, well fenced, good frame house, bank barn and implement house. Good bearing orchard, about twenty-five acres ploughed, four acres in fall wheat. Possession may be had after Mar 1st. For further particulars apply to DONALD BEATON, Prop., Jan. 20th, 1906—tt POMONA P. O.

Good Farm for Sale.

ON THE GARAFRAXA ROAD—about six miles from Durham. Good title. Possession at once. Good land. Must be sold. For particulars apply to J. P. TELFORD, Durham Feb 22nd 1906—tt

Park Lot For Sale.

PARK LOT NUMBER 13 NORTH of Saddle street in the Town of Durham, in the County of Grey, containing 4 acres more or less. For terms and particulars apply to J. P. TELFORD, Dec. 2.—tt. Vendor's Solicitor, Durham

House for Sale.

A good solid brick two storey dwelling, alongside Presbyterian Manse property in Upper Town, Durham, Corner of Durham and Elgin streets. Seven rooms, pantry, closets, cement floored cellar, etc. Good airy location in good locality. Good frame stable, hard and soft water, one acre of land. Snap for quick purchaser. For further particulars apply to JOHN W. MCKECHNIE, Owner, Aug. 1st, 1906—tt. Rocky Saugeen P. O.

Normanby Farm for Sale

LOT 21—IN THE SECOND CON- cession West of the Garafraza Road, in the Township of Normanby, in the County of Grey. For particulars apply to J. P. TELFORD, Jan. 3, 1906—tt Barrister, Durham.

Farms for Sale.

IN NEW ONTARIO. A number of improved valuable farms in New Ontario, near New Liskeard for sale—large discount for cash. Map of the locality and terms given on application to J. P. TELFORD, 7-18-06. Solicitor for Vendor.

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BEING LOT 5, CON. 11, GLENELG, B. Containing 100 acres. On the premises is a brick house, fifteen rooms, heated by hot air furnace. Soft water in kitchen, never failing well of good hard water at door. Good bearing orchard. Barn 50x60 with stone basement. Hog pen 16x30. Never failing well at barn. 85 acres cleared, 75 in good state of cultivation, balance new land and bush. Fenced throughout with cedar rails and wire. Convenient to Post Office, Church and School, on leading road between Markdale and Durham. Sold cheap to quick purchaser as proprietor is going West shortly. Apply to W. F. KERNEY, on the premise P. O. address, Waudby, Ont. Nov 13th 1906.—tt

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Notice is hereby given that a dividend at the rate of Twelve per cent. per annum upon the Capital Stock of this Institution has been declared for the quarter ending 28th February next, and the same will be payable at the Banking House in this City on and after Friday, the 1st day of March next. The Transfer Books will be closed from the 18th to the 28th February, both days inclusive. By order of the Board, G. P. SCHOLFIELD, Gen. Mgr. Toronto, 23rd January, 1907.

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