

*Excerpt from “Autobiography of Rev. William King”*

“...When I came into the township, very few of the coloured people had votes; the greater part of them were without the property necessary to qualify them for voting, and some who had property were not naturalized so their voice was not heard in the politics of the country. Three years residence in the township was necessary to qualify them for naturalization. In the third year of the settlement I collected all the settlers of 21 years of age who had been three years in the Province and had them naturalized. I found in our own settlement three hundred over 21 who had the property qualification to vote when naturalized. At the next election for Parliament, Mr. McKellar who had proved himself a warm friend of the Elgin settlement and of the coloured people opposed Mr. Larwill who had been the bitter enemy of the Elgin settlement and of the coloured people. The settlement gave 300 solid votes for Mr. McKellar and he went into Parliament by a majority of 800. From that time forward all opposition both to me and the coloured people ceased; they were now with political power, rising fast both in a social and moral point of view. A few days after the election, I met my old enemy, Mr. Larwill, the defeated candidate. Well, said he, you have fought a hard battle for the coloured people and you have won it, and McKellar who stood by you has come off victorious.”