

he complied and resigned his pastorate. But the arrangement not proving satisfactory to either side, at the end of the stipulated period he resigned the position and shortly afterward became pastor of the church in Chatham. That town proved unfavorable to his own health and the health of his family, one of his children died: after a short stay he received and accepted a call to the church in Tiverton, where his life and labors ended in September 1883.

While Dr. Davidson excelled as preacher and pastor, the greatest service he rendered to the Baptist denomination, and that which will longest perpetuate his memory, was the part he took and the work he accomplished in connection with the Home Missionary Convention. While his wise counsel and efficient help were freely given to all denominational enterprises, he made the Convention and its operations his peculiar care, and while he did not claim exclusive right to its paternity, he watched over its interests as a fond parent would guard a loved child from injury. When the Canada Baptist Missionary Society expired about 1850, it left no organization through which the churches, few, poor and scattered, could reach a hand of help to the weak and of rescue to the perishing. Very few of them were equal to the task of self-support. Thoughtful brethren perceived that if there was to be progress, some means of bringing these scattered bands of baptized believers nearer to each other, uniting them in mutual help and aggressive work, was a necessity. The Home Missionary Convention formed in Hamilton, 1851, was the result of their deliberations, and Dr. Davidson was chosen secretary.

All things considered, perhaps there was no man at that time better adapted to the office. He was young, vigorous, physically strong, equal to any amount of work, ready and willing to do all he was able. He had more than an average amount of executive ability, and to use his own expression, he was a dyed-in-the-wool Baptist. He believed in a future for the denomination he loved, that its principles were the teachings of the inspired word, which through the prayers and efforts of God's people were to be wrought out and embodied in the person of a living discipleship. Though not indifferent to popularity, he had no tolerance for the looseness and pseudo-liberality that bar-