

It is impossible in the brief limits of this article to give anything like an adequate account of the men and women who constituted the beginnings of this church, but in them and their descendants and many others who have been identified with its subsequent work and history the church possesses a rich heritage of character and personality to which not only its present position and prosperity are largely due but which was prominent in the history and life of this city and contributed largely to its upbuilding.

The first pastor of the church was the Rev. James Robertson, who moved from Derby, Vt., in May, 1836, and continued pastor until his death in September, 1861, having thus completed a pastorate of over 25 years, a long period compared with the average duration of the pastorate in our Congregational, and, indeed, in all churches to-day. For over sixty years did Mr. Robertson labour in the Christian ministry, having been ordained in Scotland and continuing there for many years. Prior to his coming to Sherbrooke he had served the Congregational Church in Derby, Vt., for four years. He held services regularly in Sherbrooke and Lennoxville every Sunday and also conducted a Bible Class on Sunday evening.

His successor in the pastorate was the Rev. Archibald Duff, D.D., who was called from Cowansville, Que. He continued in the active work for eighteen years and was Pastor emeritus for three years, during which time the Rev. B. B. Sherman was the Pastor of the church, but Dr. Duff shared the work with Mr. Sherman both in the ministry of the pulpit and in pastoral activities outside. His work, like that of his predecessor's, was eminently successful, and, like him, also, he was much beloved by his people. He died in London, England, while visiting there, shortly after he had definitely severed his pastoral relations with the church. During his ministry the church adopted the name of The Plymouth Congregational Church.

The ministry of the two first pastors of the church thus covered a period of forty-eight years. The near successors of these men, however, remained in the pastorate but a comparatively short time. Mr. Sherman, whose pastorate was concurrent with the time that Dr. Duff was pastor emeritus, remained three years. He was succeeded by Rev. E. R. Brainerd who remained for about two years and a half. Then followed Dr. Henry E. Barnes, who ministered to the church from 1887-1892. The Rev. S. L. Mitchell was then called to the