

by the First Church was begun before Mr. Davidson left. In October 1854 his father-in-law, Deacon Winter, commenced the issue of a Baptist weekly called the *Christian Messenger*, of which Mr. Davidson and R. W. Sawtell were joint editors. This added to his work, but he proved equal to the new responsibility, which continued till the paper passed into the hands of Dr. Fyfe, and appeared as the *Canadian Baptist*. He retained the pastorate of the Brantford church up to the spring of 1860, nearly ten years. In that period there were added to the church three hundred and seventy, three hundred and forty of whom were by baptism.

The success which attended his ministry in Brantford did not forsake him, when in 1860 he removed to St. George. Attendance on the preached word increased, and under his care the church grew in numbers and influence. It was during his pastorate in St. George the University of Rochester conferred on him the honorary degree of D.D., and he was from that time known among his brethren as Dr. Davidson. From St. George he went to Aylmer. At the time the Aylmer church was in a rather depressed state, and needed such a man to blow the smouldering fire into a flame. The church and congregation soon felt the power of his earnest, faithful ministry. The small church became large, the weak church strong. The old place of worship would not contain the numbers who flocked to hear the word of life from his lips, and the large house now occupied was built. Under his care the church became the largest and most influential in the place, a distinction it still retains. In response to a call from Guelph he left Aylmer. To many the new field at that time would not have presented an inviting aspect. The little church had not made itself much felt in the town, and the small membership was divided on both doctrinal topics and methods of Christian work. Dr. Davidson succeeded in harmonizing the discordant elements, and where he could not bring about unity of conviction and agreement in action he was able to hold hostility in check. Under his ministry the church grew in numbers and strength as it had never done before and became a power for good in the town. Being asked by the Home Missionary Convention to give his whole time for six months or a year to increasing the interest of the churches in Home Missions,