

canoe was upset, and both men were thrown into the water. Providentially they were through the main force of the current; Mr. Skinner managed to cling to the side of the canoe, and with difficulty to reach the bank, his companion also making out. He got some dry clothing, proceeded to the place of meeting, and conducted the services as if nothing had happened. When he got back to his home he did not even mention the affair, and his wife only found it out by the state of some of his garments. Many other adventures did he pass through, but he reckoned them small things compared with the work he was doing for Christ and precious souls. His many labours eventuated in the existence of a number of congregations in the townships mentioned, and able ministers over them are now labouring with diligence and success where Mr. Skinner planted and watered, and God hath given the increase.

Having brought out the leading points of Mr. Skinner's wide ministrations in a general view of them, the necessary limits of the memoir admonish to summarize what of it remains to be done. It has been already mentioned that he had two central congregations to which he statedly ministered, and these ministrations were abundant. In each he had a Bible class for young people. In summer he met with the Bible class of the upper congregation at 9 a.m., after travelling six miles. Public worship followed from 10 till 12. He proceeded to the lower place, six miles, stopping at his dwelling mid-way for a slight repast. The afternoon worship was at 2 p.m., and when concluded, he taught his second Bible class for an hour, so that the day was considerably spent when he got home. In summer these classes were necessarily suspended for a few months, and he preached at the Churches alternately on Sabbaths. There were four Sabbath Schools connected with the congregations and a prayer meeting at each of the Churches once a month. He had two congregational libraries, one of them particularly good; besides books and papers for the Sabbath Schools. So it ought to be in every congregation; for unless the people, old and young, are a reading and thinking people, the instructions of the pulpit want a powerful auxiliary. Mr. Skinner pastorally visited, twice a year, the families of the congregations, spread over four townships. These were always profitable and pleasing occasions in the households. It was a true saying of Dr. Chalmers, "If you want to get into the hearts of your people, go to their firesides." He likewise had a Superintendence of Schools in some one of the townships from year to year, and faithfully discharged the duties thereof. Mr. Skinner was an assiduous visitor of the sick, regardless of distance or weather; and excelled in conversing and praying with them. The Lord's supper was dispensed in each of the congregations twice a year, with week day services. Baptisms were in public, unless in cases of real necessity. A few years before his death each of the congregations built and enlarged a handsome brick church,—and to their honour, without burdening them with any debt, that incubus on too many congregations. His much attached people hoped that his voice would be heard in them for a length of years. Alas, for the uncertainty of human wishes! But his labours are not yet all enumerated. For the last fifteen years of his life he was an active and valuable member of the Board of Education in the County of Middlesex, for examining and certifying school teachers; and for a good number of years he acted as Secretary to the Board, which entailed on him a large amount of trouble and work. He originated and fostered a Temperance Society in his own locality; and was ever ready to attend and speak at public meetings within his reach, connected with the great cause of Temperance, and the total disuse of alcoholic liquors as a beverage. He took a deep interest in a Branch Bible Association in the locality. In short he well obeyed the Apostolic injunction "To be ready to every good work." As a member of Presbytery and Synod he was ever at his post, and willing to do whatever might be assigned to him. The Synodically quarterly collections for Church purposes were invariably attended to by him, and were liberal. Here