

acquired the habit of reading, and spent much of his leisure time in the favorite exercise. Works of poetry and religion were those that chiefly attracted his attention. The practice ever proved to him a present source of rich solace and enjoyment; and laid, doubtless, broad and deep the foundations of that large practical wisdom which he evinced in every department of his useful life. Through this much honored instrumentality, accompanied by the blessing of God, he soon became the subject of deep religious conviction. After a sharp, and somewhat protracted, but not uncommon struggle, he yielded his heart to the truth as it is in Christ, became henceforth a diligent student of the word of life, an ardent lover of good men, and a happy experiencer of that heavenly, converting grace which comes alone from Him, through the effective agency of the Holy Spirit. Specially did this Spirit of true Godliness, early imbibed, improve, ripen, and enlarge the qualities of his mind and heart. As he advanced in life, he seemed to grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, till he attained, in no mean degree, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. What a dignified maturity it constitutes in the man of God, and how eminently does it qualify him for occupying, with honor and advantage, every position, whether in the Church or the world.

In the 21st year of his age, he left the land of his nativity, and sailed for New York. Here, after four years, he contracted a very happy marriage with Miss Margaret Frame, also from the same shire in Scotland, who still survives him, with seven grown-up children, to mourn their sad loss. May the mighty God of Jacob prove a husband to the afflicted widow, and a father to the fatherless, and graciously afford them all the true and heaven-gifted consolation which they severally need under their heavy bereavement. After a few more years of their early married life, spent in the neighborhood of the now thriving city of Rochester, in 1833, with three children, they moved into the Township of Mono. It was then just beginning to be settled. Here, amid the wilds of a Canadian forest, they made their abode, and reared their family. Here, too, under the trials and privations of an early settlement in the backwoods, began to be displayed those manly, generous, and active, christian qualities which Mr. Laidlaw so largely possessed, which, while he lived, obtained for him so much loving respect; and now that he is dead, call forth much deep sorrow and unfeigned regret from a large circle of acquaintances. The felt destitution among the settlers of the precious blessings of sound religious instruction for themselves, and the substantial advantages of a solid secular education for their youth, called forth on their part no little anxious solicitude and persevering effort. In this crisis, Mr. Laidlaw appeared, braced himself manfully to the work, and proved invaluable in attempts to mould the character, ameliorate the condition, and improve the morals of the little colony. In the absence of other laborers, he held prayer meetings from house to house, and ceased not in any way to advance the best interests of the people. The year after his entrance in the bush, he generously gave a site for school-house; and soon after, by the united skill and energy of the little band of busy workers, the log building was raised—the first erected and opened in the Township. About the same time, a frame building was constructed and dedicated to the worship of the living God, entitled Barnes' Church, in honor of one of the most distinguished missionaries in Canada. Still later, a comfortable residence for the minister of the sanctuary, and just beside it. For both, Mr. Laidlaw gave the site, and three acres of land attached. Over this first Presbyterian congregation in Mono, he, (along with two others) in the year