

In the spring of 1862, he accepted the call of the church in Aylmer. A lady who was then a child, but now nearly blind and totally deaf, sends me some recollections of his Aylmer pastorate: "He was loved and revered by all; even the rough-and-ready farm hands would be respectful, yes, gentlemanly in his presence. I believe every child who knew the dear man loved him." It was here that in July 1864, he laid to rest his beloved wife, the mother of his four children, and a few days later his little daughter Maggie. In an Historical Sketch of the Aylmer Church we find the following: "His pastorate was a veritable example of the fact that a pastor's true success cannot always be judged by numbers. . . . During Mr. Cooper's pastorate the membership was reduced from 220 to 150: nevertheless the church grew in spirituality and in an intelligent apprehension of Christian truth."

It was in December, 1865, that he came to London to labor with what was for many years known as the York St. Church. This was then the only white Baptist congregation in the city. He came at a time when the church was torn by dissention and overwhelmed with disappointment and sorrow. The last pastor, who was with them only a few months, had joined the Episcopalians and entered holy orders. The two who preceded him had each in his turn wrought unspeakable injury to the cause of truth and religion. Dangers and troubles hung thick over the small band now almost paralyzed by its disasters. Prayerfully he undertook to rebuild the shattered walls and nobly he performed the arduous task. Steadily and patiently and with a wise and experienced hand he set himself to gather in the scattered forces, to bring about comparative harmony and to infuse a new hope and confidence and a youthful vigor into a once distracted and disheartened people. Zion lifted up her head and rejoiced. Many were gathered in; revival succeeded revival; and though Plymouthism drew away some few, an almost continued prosperity gladdened the heart of the shepherd and his flock. When at length it became apparent that the growth of the cause and the increasing population of the city, together with the added years and failing strength of one never any too robust, made some change necessary, the church proposed to lighten the burdens of their pastor by calling a younger man,