

fied with that. In the written instructions given him by the Secretary of the Mission Committee in Scotland, it was stated, "wherever you settle, your labours are by no means to be confined to the congregation assembling in your stated place of worship, but you are to preach, exhort and catechise at other stations in the vicinity." Accordingly he surveyed the country, particularly to ascertain where there were Presbyterian Immigrants amidst the sparse population. He found some of them at a considerable distance further west; visited them and preached to them; and arranged to go to them for two weeks twice a year, and minister to them on the Sabbaths and other days. This was then a somewhat formidable undertaking; for the country was wild, a dense forest, and no good roads. But this did not deter him; and the result of his toilsome journeyings and labours, in course of time was the formation of several congregations. In returning from one of these evangelising tours, towards the end of winter, he had a remarkable deliverance. A rapid thaw had set in; the snow roads for sleighing had vanished, and he had to betake himself with his horse and conveyance to the ice on the shore of Lake Erie. It too was in a very critical state, showing unmistakeable signs of soon breaking up. However, committing himself to the Lord whom he served, he went on for a whole day, and got safe to land at the desired point. A few hours after, all the ice was shattered into countless pieces. He had to say, with adoring gratitude, Bless the Lord, O my soul—who redeemeth thy life from destruction. Those itinerancies were the beginning of a course of home-mission work which he elsewhere prosecuted with great energy and much final success. He laboured in Southwold and beyond it for six years. In 1840 he saw it his duty to move to the township of London, to occupy part of the field where the Rev. Mr. Proudfoot had been sowing the seed of the word for eight years, and now required co-operation. Mr. Skinner received the charge of two places, English Settlement and Bethel, where congregations had been organised, and meeting houses raised. At these places, and in the surrounding country, he laboured regularly, building up the two congregations, and they continued to flourish till the end of his days among them. It was a great mutual comfort and help that he and Mr. Proudfoot were within twelve miles of each other. A warm friendship and brotherhood, and reciprocity of work subsisted between them till Mr. Proudfoot died in 1851, having in addition to his pastorate in London and Westminster, acted for a number of years with great credit to himself, as sole Professor to the students of the Synod to which he belonged, and of which he was a bright ornament.

We are now come to the busiest and most important part of Mr. Skinner's missionary labours, for a missionary he was emphatically. While by his earnest preaching, his edifying visitations, and pleasing demeanour he was drawing the people to English settlement and Bethel, he resumed his itinerances, going first to the townships of Adelaide and Warwick, where he set up stations. All this was bye work to him, for he did not allow it to encroach on his more immediate pastoral duties. It was on week-days he itinerated, through rough roads in the forest, for there were but few clearings. In process of time Adelaide and Warwick furnished distinct congregations, and one minister to them has already died. Turning his aims eastward, he added to the work he had already marked out the exploring of the townships of McGilivray, Lobo, Biddulph, Blanshard, Downie, Fullarton,—all of them but partially settled and opened up. In traversing them, and preaching in dwellings, or rude school houses, he endured great hardness, as a good servant of Jesus Christ his Lord. On one of these occasions he had an appointment in Blanshard. It was early in May, and a freshet had greatly swollen the streams, one of which he had to cross with his horse, but it was too deep and strong for fording, and there was no bridge. However, one man offered to take him over in a canoe, and another to pass his horse at the foot of a rapid. He went into the canoe; but the man was not skilful with the paddle; the