

His genial disposition, dignified manliness and Christian integrity must have won the high esteem of both student and professor.

About this time the Canada Baptist Missionary Society, began to assume the oversight of Baptist mission work in the Eastern Townships. There was already quite a constellation of Baptist churches here, which had been formed by Baptist missionaries from Vermont, beginning as far back as 1799. These beautiful townships were settled in part by New England families, and Baptist work well begun afforded a most desirable field for Canada Baptist Missionary effort. In the summer of 1841 Mr. Gillies was sent out into this region on a missionary tour, to preach the Gospel wherever opportunity afforded, solicit subscribers to the "Baptist Magazine," and collect money for the Canada Baptist Missionary Society. Accordingly he visited the following Baptist churches and preaching stations, viz.: Stanbridge, Abbott's Corners, Potton, West Bolton, Stanstead and Hatley, Fitch Bay, Magog, Beebe Plain, Barnston, Barford, Eaton and East Clifton. This distance of fully one hundred and twenty miles, was travelled by stage, on foot, on horseback and by private conveyance; the Rev. T. Merriman of Summerville, Mass., then a student, whose home was in Magog, being his travelling companion and guide. Having returned to college he accepted a call to the Eaton Baptist Church, of which he writes: "Rather lonely, if not a little homesick and tired, I began my life work Saturday, 31st of December, 1841, in the deacon's parlor, by studying my sermons for the next day, which was to be the first Sabbath and the first day of the year 1842. The text was very good and appropriate, whatever the sermon may have been—"For I determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ and him crucified: 1st Cor. ch. 2nd, v. 2." Thus he began that unusually long and useful pastorate, continuing until 1880, and terminating then only through failing health. Throughout this long chapter of thirty-eight years the history of the Rev. A. Gillies and that of Eaton Baptist Church are sacredly and inseparably interwoven.

He was ordained in Eaton, on the 27th day of February 1842. The Council was composed of six ministers and seven lay brethren. The Rev. John Girdwood, of Montreal, preached the