
Unionists, without a settled pastor, struggled through the past year, under great difficulties, and at one period were contemplating closing the church, for want of means to pay for supply, but by extraordinary efforts their prospects are now beginning to brighten."

This petition, presented in the fall of 1876, showed the congregation depleted to twenty families and twenty-two communicants, and they promised to pay as stipend to a pastor the sum of \$300, and Price's Corners, with twenty-eight families and twenty-nine communicants, offered \$200.

In reply, the Clerk of the Presbytery, the Rev. Robert Torrance, asked further information as to the status of the people, and particularly says:—"Let me also know if the congregations contribute to the schemes of the church."

THE FIRST MINISTER AFTER THE UNION.

There were now two congregations of Presbyterians in Hillsburg, and the need of a man of wisdom, tact and prudence, and whose deep spirituality would help heal the wounds of the Union was a first essential.

The new minister was such a man—devout, spiritual, prudent, kind, and deeply sympathetic.

The Rev. Robert Fowlie was ordained and inducted to the united charge by the Presbytery of Guelph on the 25th day of October, A.D. 1877.



REV. ROBERT FOWLIE.

Robert Fowlie was Scotch. He was born in the County of Perth, October 18th, 1842, the son of Alexander Fowlie and Margaret Dougall, both devoted Christians and members of the Free Church.

Early in life Robert was brought to Canada with his parents, who settled in Usborne Township, County Huron, Ont., where he went to school.

His further education was had in Goderich, then four years as a teacher, and in 1871 he entered Knox College to prepare for the ministry.