

village and entered into business. He was not a Christian ; and his leanings were not towards the Baptists. Mr. Slaght was holding revival meetings. The young man kept aloof. One day he received a letter from the pastor to this effect : " Dear Friend, What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul ? Close your store and come to the meeting to-night." He came, was converted, and has been for many years an earnest Christian and a deacon in the church.

Mr. Slaght, while a faithful pastor, was also a strong believer in special evangelistic efforts. Besides holding revival meetings in his own church every winter, he reached out into the regions around ; and that the Baptist cause is so strong in the Township of Townsend is in no small degree due to these labors. Some one has said that " a pastor's influence increases in geometrical ratio to the length of his pastorate." The influence which " Elder Slaght," as he was familiarly called, exercised in this community is an illustration of the truth of this saying. He had grown up from childhood among the people here ; he knew every body, and every body knew him. I believe that Mr. Slaght officiated at more weddings and funerals than any other Canadian Baptist minister. He was sent for from far and near, by people of all denominations and of no religious belief. In the sick room and in the house darkened by death he knew what to say, and what not to say. I think more carefully than most of us, he prepared himself for a funeral service ; and in conducting these services he showed great tact, as well as faithfulness to the living.

But the influence and work of Mr. Slaght extended beyond his official duties as a pastor and preacher. He could say : "*Homo sum : humani nihil a me alienum puto.*" He threw himself with energy into every question of public moment, and always on the right side.

Perhaps few of the younger generation of Canadians fully realize the crisis through which their country passed about the year 1850 on the question of the Clergy Reserves. In the year 1791 the British Parliament had set apart every seventh lot of land in what was then known as Upper Canada, for the " support of the Protestant Clergy." These lands were afterwards claimed by the Church of England, to the exclusion of all other