

through the press that he would begin preaching on a certain day. The work opened in an encouraging way, the people being attracted at first by the novelty of the venture and afterwards by Mr. Gilmour's agreeable and original way of preaching. Soon the first Baptist church in Aberdeen was organized with Mr. Gilmour as pastor, those interested in the step having agreed to appoint a day for fasting and prayer and so form themselves into a church. This pastorate lasted till 1830, and it was one in which he "endured hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ," his efforts being seconded by a loyal band of workers. In 1822 he married Janet Walker, of Irvine, a woman who, with a somewhat weak constitution, possessed superior mental and spiritual endowments, an extraordinary wealth of affection, and a distinct talent for poetry. Mrs. Gilmour lived till 1852, and these thirty years of their married life were years of unalloyed happiness. Mr. Gilmour never wearied in acknowledging the help which came to him through her gentle and elevating influence.

In 1830 he resigned his charge in Aberdeen to undertake work in Montreal, a number of indications pointing in that direction, the most prominent being a visit from Mr. John Edwards, well known in Eastern Canada, who, after being directed by the Messrs. Haldane to the pastor of the Baptist church in Aberdeen as a suitable man for the work in Canada for which he was seeking laborers, sought out Mr. Gilmour and assured him that his duty lay in Canada. He carried also with him a letter from Mr. Ebenezer Muir to whom Mr. Gilmour had said good-bye some years before, at Greenock. The Aberdeen pastor, therefore, resigned his charge and said farewell amid many tears. He was now about to identify his fortunes with those of the New World. After a voyage of nearly six weeks, he landed in Montreal in September, 1830. Here also he had the honor of doing pioneer work and of collecting the constituent members of the first Baptist church organized in Montreal. He began preaching in Bruce's school house in McGill Street, two days after landing. About a year later a church of twenty-five members was formed, with Mr. Gilmour as pastor. A lot on St. Helen Street was purchased and a chapel erected upon it, the site being to-day indicated by a marble slab on the