

then under the charge of Drs. Dick and Mitchell. At the close of the fourth session he was licensed to preach the gospel, and ordained as a missionary to Canada. He arrived with his partner in life in the summer of 1838, and thenceforth became intimately connected with the history of Presbyterianism in Canada.

When Dr. Thornton arrived in Canada, and commenced his labours, and for a number of years after, the work of a missionary and even of a pastor were very different from what it is now; the settlements were so scattered and the roads so unformed that it required not only missionary zeal, but no small amount of physical vigour and endurance, to carry on ministerial work. The Christian labourer had, in reality, to "endure hardness" in those days. Dr. Thornton was indomitable in his journeyings and labours.

After a time he made Whitby the centre of his ministerial labours, but these labours were extended far and wide around him. The truth is, Dr. Thornton may be regarded as the main founder of Presbyterianism in the whole region now known as South Ontario. Far and wide did his labours extend. He was particular in keeping appointments, and even to the last never shrunk from any duty assigned to him.

Dr. Thornton not only was a diligent and faithful pastor, but all along took a deep interest in the cause of education, and in the temperance reformation, and indeed in every thing connected with the social, moral and spiritual good of the community. He did much, by instruction and by personal intercourse, to stimulate the young to mental and spiritual improvement.

Dr. Thornton was for many years Clerk of his Presbytery. He was Moderator of the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church when the union took place in 1861. In 1859 the honorary degree of D.D. was conferred on him by the College of Princeton, New Jersey.

We conclude this brief notice of Dr. Thornton with two paragraphs, which we take from the biographical sketch already referred to:

"Dr. Thornton was greatly blessed in his family. His was verily a happy Christian home. True the King of Terrors entered it repeatedly, and bore away near and dear ones. His eldest son was removed when verging on manhood, and full of such promise as gladdens the hearts of Christian parents. A sweet little daughter was suddenly snatched from them by a painful accident. Not many years ago another daughter, 'woman grown,' gifted by nature but more by grace, was called away. All these, however, they could look upon, not as lost, but 'gone before.' His beloved partner, though long an invalid, was graciously spared to him till within just a year and one day of his own removal to their Father's house in heaven. His eldest surviving son, the Rev. Robert M. Thornton, is engaged in his Divine Master's work in Glasgow, Scotland. May he and the other members of the family continue to adorn the doctrine of Christ, and feel ever grateful to God for their honored Christian parentage.

"His end was peaceful. Owing to the nature of the disease, his prostration was so great that he could speak only in monosyllables, and that with great difficulty, but towards the close, that tongue which had so often told of Christ's love became powerless, but there needed not a death-bed declaration that he had felt the power of that love. One that was present on the solemn occasion 'thanked God for the testimony of a long, consistent, and zealous Christian life.' Who that knows aught of his life and labours will not feel prompted to exclaim, 'Soldier of Christ, well done!'"