

support, he kept in operation a Sabbath school of over forty scholars, and led the public worship of the community. Through his efforts the little church was kept together and built up in the truth, while at the same time he prayed and labored for the salvation of the unsaved. The obstacles which stood in the way of success few veterans would care to face, or attempt to overcome, and might well be considered insurmountable, and paralyze the energies of a raw recruit. Certain animosities among the people prevented unity of feeling and action in Christian work. Human nature, however diversified in its development by race and nation, is at bottom every where the same. One peculiarity of Highland human nature is that a serious offence is not soon forgotten. The fray is not only carried from door to door, and from glen to glen, but too often from generation to generation. Feelings and feuds which should have been left in Scotland, took passage with some of the families across the wide Atlantic, and settled down with them in Chatham. In religious things they cursed the community for many years, and held back the work of Divine grace. Despite the discouragement these things threw over the spirit of young Mr. McPhail, he held on his way, and to the best of his ability did his work. The evil found itself ultimately overcome by a persistency stronger than its own.

The spiritual condition of the young people of the settlement gave Mr. McPhail much anxiety. In morality, they far excelled young people in most other parts of the country. But he well knew morality however faultless could not save them, and could furnish no assured resistance to the allurements of sin. The greater number of them had never seen a regularly ordained Baptist minister. They knew there were Baptists in Breadalbane and Clarence, but did not know there were any elsewhere in the country. In the seclusion of their own little settlement, they were ignorant of what was going forward in the outside world. Science had not yet taught the electric current to flash over the land and under the sea the occurrences of distant places. No newspaper, daily or weekly, carried tidings to the obscure neighborhood. Like the people of Laish invaded by the Danites, the Chathamites lived by themselves quiet and secure, and had little business with others. Hills and