

Ere long a church was erected at Dundas, and a hall fitted up at Ancaster, and in these places of worship Mr. Stark continued to minister as of old, his ministrations, according to the testimony of friends, acquiring a still more earnest and experimental character. After a number of years, he made arrangements for confining his labors to Dundas, the members of his congregation at Ancaster uniting with the other Presbyterians in the neighbourhood in forming a charge, over which the Rev. J. Lees was afterwards inducted. In this arrangement Mr. Stark cordially acquiesced.

About the time of the Union in 1861—an event of which Mr. Stark heartily rejoiced—he began to think of retiring from the active duties of the ministry—his health, which was never very robust, becoming somewhat infirm. In the course of the year 1862 he tendered to the Presbytery the resignation of his charge. Many of the friends of Mr. Stark in the Presbytery and throughout the church would have wished that he should still retain his connexion with a congregation to which he had so long ministered. But he chose to tender his resignation; and the Presbytery, after making arrangements with the congregation as to a retiring allowance, accepted the resignation. Wishing, however, still to enjoy the benefit of Mr. Stark's presence and counsel, the Presbytery made application to the Synod for leave to retain his name on their roll as a minister without charge—an application which the Synod cheerfully and unanimously granted.

Being relieved from the duties and care of pastoral work, Mr. Stark was permitted to enjoy a period of improved health. He preached occasionally in vacant congregations where his services were required, and during the vacancies at Dundas performed many duties among his former flock, both public and private. It gave him great pleasure when the congregation, after a considerable interval, succeeded in obtaining the services of the Rev. J. McColl, who was ordained as pastor in October last, and he gave the new pastor a most hearty welcome. The esteem was mutual, and it was hoped that the aged minister and the young pastor might, for several years, enjoy each other's society and intercourse. But our hopes in regard to earthly comfort are often disappointed, and so it was in regard to our dear departed friend. At the beginning of the present year, Mr. Stark was more than usually well. He went to visit his eldest son, who is settled in Woodstock, and after spending a few days very happily with him, he went to Galt to visit his youngest daughter. While there, he preached on the evening of the 7th ult., in Knox's Church, where he had officiated not unfrequently during the vacancy before the settlement of Mr. Smith, and always with great acceptance. This was his last sermon. On the following day, he went home, leaving Mrs. Stark in Galt. On his arrival at Dundas he felt well and attended a Union, prayer meeting—it been the week of prayer. On Tuesday he went to Hamilton to attend a meeting of the Presbytery, walking to and from the Station both at Dundas and Hamilton. After returning home in the evening, he again attended a prayer meeting. On Wednesday evening, he attended another meeting in his own old church—St. Andrew's Church, and took part in the exercises, with an unction and a fluency which were remarked by several. On going to his own house he found that Mrs. Stark had returned, and they sat for some time conversing cheerfully. He awoke at five o'clock on Thursday morning feeling quite well, but by six o'clock he was complaining of an acute pain which had seized him in the side. After ineffectually trying some remedies at hand, Mrs. Stark called in the Doctor who pronounced the disease to be pleurisy, but thought that it might be subdued. The prescribed remedies were used, and there seemed to be an alleviation of the symptoms, but his prostration was very great. There followed two weeks of much suffering, with occasional intervals of comparative comfort; while alternating hopes and fears filled the hearts of his family and friends. In the midst of all, he was tranquil