

others of thirty, members, but the smaller number is more probably correct. They believed that every church should have a plurality of elders, and appointed two of their brethren to lead their devotions and administer ordinances. Without fee or reward these brethren watched over the spiritual interests of the little band of believers in the wilderness. As the church grew in number and the surrounding population increased, the need of a man who would devote his whole time to the ministry of the Word and pastoral oversight, became too evident to be overlooked. But where was such a man to be found? and if found, how in their circumstances of poverty was he to be supported? It was felt that getting a pastor, if one could be found, was a measure of solemn responsibility. A day was set apart for fasting, prayer, and conference, when the matter was laid before God and His direction sought. The Rev. John Edwards, Sr., who had preached in Breadalbane as often as his distant home in Clarence and appointments elsewhere would allow, and for a time exercised a general supervision over the affairs of the church, visited England and Scotland in 1829 for the double purpose of interesting the churches on behalf of Canada, and inducing ministers to come to the country. He was commissioned to secure a pastor for Breadalbane, who must needs be a Highlander, for Gaelic was the language of the people.

While the Spirit of God was stirring up the hearts of the people in Breadalbane about a pastor for themselves, who would also preach the Gospel in the neighboring townships, He was at the same time turning the thoughts of Mr. Fraser in Scotland to the religious destitution of Canada, but though such thoughts sometimes forced themselves upon him, he had not decided to share with the scattered settlers the isolation, toils and privations of a wilderness life. His reflections bore fruit in due time, for they made the task of Mr. Edwards in persuading him to come to Canada much easier than it might otherwise have been. When the religious, or rather the irreligious, condition of the country was laid before him, the almost utter want of ministers to dispense the word of life, and the growing ungodliness among the young in the settlements, by one who had seen it all and grieved over it, Mr. Fraser determined to respond to a call so