time at some of the principal cities which he visited, he had opportunities of carrying on and extending his studies. These opportunities he diligently improved, attending lectures at the University of France as well as at Berlin. During his first visit to the Continent, he remained for a considerable time in the family of Dr. Becker, of Offenbach, with whom he contracted an intimate and lasting friendship. One winter he spent in Rome, thus having an opportunity of making himself familiar with the works of art, which are found in that celebrated city. Mr. Stark had very great taste in every thing connected with the fine arts, and could use his pencil with great effect and skill. His sojourn on the Continent gave him also an opportunity of making himself a thorough proficient in the French, German and Italian languages, and of enriching his library with many works of foreign authors.

While Mr. Stark was still a probationer, repeated prospects were presented of a settlement in the Church of Scotland, but while he was highly esteemed wherever he was known, the hopes of his friends in regard to his settlement were not realized. He then began to think of Canada as a field of labour, and, in 1833, come to this Province, with recommendations from the Glasgow Colonial Society, a Society which did much about the period referred to in sending Presbyterian ministers to the North American Colonies. He brought also letters from influential friends to the Governor, Sir John Colborne, from whom he received much attention and kindness. Soon after his arrival he was called by the congregations at Ancaster and Dundas, where he was speedily inducted as Pastor, succeeding the Rev. Mr. Sheed, who had some time before been removed by death. At the time referred to, there were but few Presbyterian ministers in the western part of Canada, and these were very widely scattered. The Presbytery of Hamilton extended from Lake Ontario to Amherstburgh. For a short time Mr. Stark had but few fellow-labourers within reach, but soon after his own settlement, the late Mr. Gale was settled at Hamilton, Mr. Stark officiating at his induction. Other congregations were organized, and other ministers soon settled. In the life of a minister in Canada, in such a situation as that occupied by Mr. Stark, there are not usually many incidents of importance to note. Ordinary, every-day work, pastoral visitation, and missionary tours—somewhat more arduous thirty years ago than they are now—filled up the time of the minister, leaving but little leisure for anything beyond the proper work of the ministry. In everything connected with his work, Mr. Stark was diligent, faithful and conscientious, and soon enjoyed, in a very large degree, the affection of his people, and the respect of the community.

Soon after his settlement he was united in marriage to the partner whose labors for upwards of thirty years lessened his, and whose active mind, and bright and joyous disposition, sustained and cheered him amidst his arduous and sometimes discouraging labors. His married life was a singularly happy one. He was a most loving and affectionate husband and father, and his home was the scene of a much pure and unalloyed pleasure as falls to the lot of most.

When the disruption in the Church of Scotland took place in the mother country and was followed by a similar division in Canada, Mr. Stark, although always disposed to be a peace-maker, was quite decided in adhering to the party sympathizing with the Free Church. He occupied the Moderator's chair of the last Synod held before the disruption, and was chosen Moderator of the first Free Church Synod in Kingston in 1844. As Moderator of the Synod at the time of the disruption, his situation was one of great delicacy and difficulty; but he never hesitated in the path of duty, and was resolved, by the grace of God, to adhere to the principles which he regarded as scriptural and authoritative. Mr. Stark's people did not all adhere to him, and he and those adhering had to give up the churches in which they had formerly worshipped.