

THE
McMASTER UNIVERSITY MONTHLY

NOVEMBER, 1898.

AARON SLAGHT.

When on the 3rd of June last the subject of this sketch passed away from the scenes of earth, the County of Norfolk lost by all odds its best known citizen, and one who for more than fifty years had been a distinct force in the religious, social, and political affairs of the community in which he lived. Aaron Slaght belonged to U. E. Loyalist stock, his grandfather having come from the State of New Jersey shortly after the close of the American war of Independence. The family settled on a farm about a mile east of the now village of Waterford; and there on August 22nd, 1822, Aaron was born; near the spot where his earthly remains now repose.

Both the religious and educational advantages of those distant days were very scant as compared with the present; but Aaron attended the common school, such as it was; and also the public services, which were held more or less regularly, in a union building which stood not far from the present Baptist church. When seventeen years of age he was converted, and baptized by Elder Goble, joining the Free-will Baptist church at Windham. It is worth mentioning in passing, that many of the early Baptist churches in this part of the country were at first Free-will; and that in every case they have become extinct, and have been succeeded by regular Baptist churches.