

There were registered during the year 23 Baptisms, 19 Burials, and 11 Marriages. The number of names on the Communion Roll is 542.

We commence the year under the dark shadow of a great loss. On the first Sabbath of 1887 we received the sad intelligence that one whom we all honoured and loved had entered into his rest. "Help Lord for the godly man ceaseth, the faithful fail," was our instinctive cry when we heard of the sudden and unexpected death of our senior elder, the Hon. Justice Torrance. For thirty-six years he has borne office in this church, and if there was ever a godly man and a faithful elder it was he. His motto for life could be summed up in these words, "I have set the Lord always before me." First of all he did so by putting his trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour. This was the root of all his godliness and faithfulness. The grace of God that bringeth salvation to all men appeared to him, and it taught him to deny worldly lust, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly.

It was not always so. When a young man, he was tainted with that scepticism and pride of intellect which are so common, and took no interest in spiritual things. When and how the great change was accomplished, I cannot tell, and it is of little consequence, for no man who knew him could doubt for a moment the direction in which the current of his life was flowing. One thing however we do know, viz., that he attributed this change entirely to the grace of God and the power of His Holy Spirit.

As his godliness and faithfulness sprang from faith in the Lord Jesus, so were they nourished by meditation and prayer. The word of God was daily his delight, and prayer was the very breath of his soul. No wonder then that his character was so transparent, so kindly, so generous, so courteous, and so equable. He never changed, except in deepening earnestness and spiritual reality. Next month it will be nine years since first I knew him. His was the first house in which I lived in Canada, and so real was he, that from that time I have never had to modify my first opinion of him. A thorough Christian gentleman I have always found him, constant and faithful to duty, but most kind, most unselfish, most benevolent.

His death is a great loss, not only to us but to the church at large, for, as a friend in another congregation