

and seriousness, we may feel assured that he studied this subject thoroughly and prayerfully until his own mind had reached a clear and settled conviction of what was his duty. He decided to follow the Lord in his own appointed way, and was baptized by Rev. A. McIntyre in Sturgeon Lake, not far from the Blythe Farm above mentioned. His father and mother also became soon afterwards members of the Baptist church through the labors of Bro. Graham and himself. For the facts of this paragraph, we are indebted to Bro. Henry Graham, J. P., of Kinmount, son of the brother above referred to, who has kindly taken special pains to verify every particular. Like the disciples in primitive days, Mr. Torrance had sought to improve the gifts that the Lord had given him. His pulpit efforts were so encouraging and so well received that it was soon evident to himself and to his brethren that he had been chosen and endowed of God for the great work of preaching the gospel. In 1860 he was called and duly ordained to the pastoral care of the Baptist churches of Woodville and the West Line of Brock, where he continued to labor for a year and nine months. His sermons, we are told, were already marked by that familiarity with the Scriptures and that independence and maturity of thought which served to render his preaching so instructive and impressive in after years. The blessing of God attended his work, and the influence of this first pastorate is felt in those churches to this day. In later years he frequently preached in Fenelon Falls, when visiting his parents, and on such occasions he was greeted by large congregations who listened to his discourses with pleasure and profit.

In the fall of 1861, Mr. Torrance, feeling strongly the need of further study, resigned his charge and set out for Woodstock to enrol himself as a student of the Canadian Literary Institute. By practising strict economy, and by preaching almost every Sabbath, he succeeded in remaining in his classes for three years. Knowing the value of the limited time his slender means would allow him, he entered upon his work in the Institute with such zeal and determination as rendered success in his studies a matter of course. He was particularly fond of English studies; he cultivated a taste for good literature and made every effort to acquire ease and correctness in composition and speaking. We