

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Letter from the Rev. James Ried.

REVIVAL AT PORTAUPIQUE.

DEAR BROTHER,

As you take a lively interest in the advancement of the Kingdom of the Redeemer, I am happy to inform you, that the Lord is now bestowing on the Church under my care in Port-au-Prince, a powerful and extensive revival. When I came to this place about three months ago, a wide and effectual door was opened unto me. The fields were white and ready for harvest. The Lord accompanied my imperfect services, with the powerful influence of his Holy Spirit. A considerable number of our beloved young people have been awakened to a sense of their lost condition, and a few have obtained peace and joy, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Twenty-five have been baptized, and united with the Church. Of this number some were convinced of sin by the preaching of other faithful ministers, who formerly laboured here. Some are heads of families, the greatest part are young and amiable. It was delightful to see so many persons, in the prime of life, renouncing this sinful world, and following the Lord of glory in the holy and blessed ordinance of baptism. In administering the ordinance, the Lord refreshed both minister and people with the light of his countenance. The Lord put his seal of approbation upon this sacred ordinance, by not only making us happy, but also by disposing us to be holy, to be more separated from this present evil world, and more devoted to his glory. This gracious work is going forward. The Spirit of God is still moving on the minds of many both young and old. May the Lord continue his lovingkindness to us till all in our land obtain mercy. In the Church at Great Village, there are also some favourable tokens of showers of blessing coming down upon his afflicted people there. A few days ago, one dear sister was baptised there, and several others have expressed a desire to confess the name of our ascended Redeemer. May this small branch of Zion, be likewise favoured with a gracious revival of religion. Multitudes of immortal beings are evidently crowding the broad way to eternal destruction. Nothing but the Spirit's almighty power can arrest them. I am glad that my brethren are forming a Home Missionary Society for the whole Province. In this country there is great need for missionary labour. There are many destitute places, where many persons very seldom hear the gospel. May that society meet with a favourable reception, and may it be instrumental in sending the glad tidings of salvation to those sitting in darkness and spiritual death.

I am sorry to see that the dear people of my last charge in the Ohio Church, Yarmouth, have not yet obtained another pastor. It was a painful trial for me to leave that interesting church. It was on account of the failure of my health by the damp and moist atmosphere, that I was under the necessity of leaving that place. Is there no person in our Denomination that would consent to go to them and preach the unsearchable riches of Christ. Either a young man or a person with a small family might be well supported there. The church is united, spiritually minded, and established in doctrine. There are many of the brethren, who give largely to support the Gospel, and may very ably hold up the Pastor's hands by exhortation and prayer. There are also a very promising young people there, who are well disposed to the religion of Jesus Christ. If any ministering brother, who has good health would be disposed to go to this church, he would not only be well supported but he would be happy in the enjoyment of the sincere christian love which animates the people of God in that place. The greater part were converted under the preaching of the venerable Harris Harding of blessed memory. Their chief desire is to see the cause of God prosper, the edification of those who now believe in the Saviour and the conversion of those who are in their natural state. May the Great Head of the Church, send to them a Pastor according to his heart, to feed them with knowledge and understanding! Since I came to this place my health is much improved, for which I desire to be thankful. With sincere desire for your increased success and much true happiness, I remain dear brother,

yours in christian love, JAMES RIED.

PORTAUPIQUE, Oct. 20, 1857.

P. S.—I still intend to further the interests of your valuable paper. Please insert the foregoing letter. I am afraid it is rather lengthy. If you indulge me this time, my next will be shorter.

[We insert the above with pleasure, postscript and all. Brother Ried need make no apology for the length of his letter, whenever he can give us such good news.—Ed. C. M.]

For the Christian Messenger.

Letter from London, C. W.

OCTOBER 6, 1857.

Brantford is situated west of Hamilton and ten miles south of the Great Western Railway. The Buffalo and Lake Huron Railway passes through the town,—population over 7,000. It is surrounded by an excellent Agricultural country, not surpassed for fertility in any part of the province. The Canada "Christian Messenger" is published there. I had not an opportunity of forming an acquaintance with the editor of your name-sake. The Baptists are erecting a splendid brick church, in place of the one destroyed by fire. I proceeded from Brantford to Woodstock. This is the town in which the Baptists of Canada are erecting their College. It is a large, handsome, brick building, nearly ready to receive the roof. It is situated on a hill, on the south side of the railway, the town lying on the north.

I should think Hamilton or London would be infinitely better located for the college. If the selection had been made irrespective of one gentleman's money I should not question the eligibility of the site. From Woodstock I went to London, the largest and most thriving Canadian town west of Hamilton. It has only been a few years in building, has a population of 17,000 and a city incorporation. There are many fine buildings in the city, of which the Court House stands most conspicuous. The churches are mostly elegant buildings, there are also barracks here. This terminated my travels westward. I went from that city south, to Lake Erie—near the centre of the lake there are three ports, Standley, Bruce, and Burnell. A railway is laid from the former port to London. An American steamer from Cleveland, Ohio, touches at these ports two or three times each week—American millers have agents at these ports, buying wheat to mix with the western wheat. One of the agents informed me that they were giving 3s. 3d. for western wheat and 4s. 8d. for Canadian, the latter being so much superior, and requiring it to mix with the other, to make good flour. There is one model settlement in Elgin County, near Port Bruce, on Nova Scotia street, extending six or seven miles—they are all wealthy farmers, all temperate, and all Baptists, they have two large gothic meeting-houses, and three school-houses.

This is a good fruit country, every house is nearly surrounded with fruit trees, and I am just in the season for ripe fruit. Wheat is the principal article of export. There is no difficulty in raising twenty or thirty bushels to the acre—and will pay well at one dollar a bushel, but the low price now offered makes the farmers cry out "hard times." The weavel is beginning to make its appearance in the wheat, and if it proves generally destructive, the loss will be more sensibly felt than in Nova Scotia, where there are greater facilities for lumbering and fishing—wheat this morning is down to 3s. 9d. per bushel. Farmers who are able will hold their wheat until the spring, hoping for better prices—but many will be obliged to sell at the prices offered.

Lands in Upper Canada are nearly all settled, only woods enough in the rear of farms to answer the requirements of the owners, in fact, wood lands are nearly as valuable as the cleared. Old settlers have divided their farms among their sons, which are not now large enough for a sub-division, and the next generation, if they incline to be farmers, will have to emigrate, as there are very few farms for sale, even at the owners almost fabulous valuations. Lands here have risen in value very rapidly in the past few years, which has been highly advantageous to land speculators, but not to permanent holders,—government lands being all taken up, a wishful eye is cast upon the Hudson Bay territory. The government so far yielded to the popular feeling and sent a delegate to make interest with the Home government to have the territory annexed to Canada, at the expiration of the Company's lease in 1859. The selection of a Judge on that important mission, appeared very singular—and it is more than insinuated that Judge Draper, when in England only looked through the Company's gold spectacles when treating on this subject. If the Hudson Bay Company have sufficient influence to maintain their claims against the demands of Canada, and prevent the territory from being annexed to the province,—the Americans who begin to think they have a claim, will take up and occupy the lands, and rather than go to war with our neighbours Great Britain will allow the United States to add this territory to their extended empire. Canada really requires this territory as there is a continual emigration to the western States which could be diverted to this new country if a part of the province.

I am now on my return from Lake Erie to Galt—and write from the city of London in the county of Middlesex, and can see the waters of the Thames flow through its suburbs.

WILL.

For the Christian Messenger.

Obituary Notices.

CHARLES EATON.

The subject of this notice was the eldest son of Robert and Maria Eaton, and was born in Upper Wilmot, September 20, 1829. He was a steady and quiet lad. In his youthful days his mind was strongly exercised with reference to his spiritual welfare. He did not, however, at that time obtain such satisfactory evidence of acceptance with God, as to enable him to profess faith in Christ.

While residing in Greenfield, Horton, his hope became stronger; and, in compliance with his convictions of duty, he was baptized by Rev. James Stevens, on the 25th day of December, 1853. Being constant in his attendance at religious meetings, and active in them, he soon became a prominent member in the church. His christian deportment, affectionate spirit, and zealous efforts to do good, won for him the esteem of his brethren, and his acquaintances in general.

In 1855 he returned to Upper Wilmot. On the 15th day of June, 1856, brother Eaton was united in marriage with Miss Julia Ann Graham, of Horton, who was baptized when he was. On her coming to reside in this region, they very properly obtained dismissions, and were gladly received, on December 27th, 1856, into the Baptist Church of Lower Aylesford and Upper Wilmot.

Our dear departed brother has been justly regarded as remarkably observant of the injunction, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." He laboured industriously and earnestly with his hands, but did not allow worldly business to prevent his regular attendance on religious duties. In these he was accustomed to engage with remarkable fervency of spirit.

The writer's first intimate acquaintance with brother Eaton was formed in the autumn of the year 1854, at a series of meetings held in Upper Aylesford. The manifestly sincere and ardent desire which he evinced for the advancement of the cause of Christ and the salvation of sinners, produced a strong attachment. This was increased by subsequent christian intercourse.

Deep was the grief felt by many on the perception of symptoms of consumption in this valued disciple of Christ early in the present year. This was augmented in the spring by still plainer indications of his approaching dissolution. Brother Eaton, however, appeared calm, submissive, and steadfast in the hope which living faith inspires.

On the 14th day of September, when he had appeared unable to speak for some time, Deacon Samuel Wheelock asked him, "Do you still feel the Saviour precious?" To this he replied distinctly, "Yes, sir." Shortly after the utterance of those his last words, he quietly resigned his spirit in the hands of his beloved Redeemer.

Brother Eaton left a widow, and a daughter only five days old. It is generally felt that these, his other relations, the church, and the community, have sustained a serious loss; but none doubt that to him the gain is unspeakably great.

As the bereaved widow was unable to go out at the time of his burial, a discourse was delivered by the pastor, on Lord's-day, October 19th, to a numerous and solemn assembly, from Numb. xliii, 10. "Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his."—Com. by Rev. C. Tupper.

DEACON SAMUEL RAYMOND.

The subject of this brief Obituary was born in Yarmouth, in the year 1776, June 20, and died August 28, 1857. Of his childhood and youth the writer is entirely ignorant, and therefore can say nothing of the early impressions on his mind on the subject of religion.

After he was married and had two or three children, and at the age of 29 he met with a most severe affliction. While in the woods getting timber a tree fell on him, and so injured his right shoulder, that, although having the best medical aid that he could avail himself of, both in Nova Scotia and the United States, he was entirely deprived of the use of his right arm the remainder of his days; besides enduring at intervals the most intense pain in his shoulder and arm. To add to this, he was called to part with two companions. Under all this he was wonderfully supported by Divine grace, and, trusting in the Lord, he went forth labouring with his left hand to support his helpless family, which he succeeded in doing comfortably.

He was a member of the Baptist Church, and, after settling in Carleton, Yarmouth, he was chosen deacon of the Baptist Church at Tusket. Some years after he, with a number of others, obtained dismissions, for the purpose of forming the Third Baptist Church of Yarmouth, and continued a deacon until death.

Brother R. possessed a very strong mind, his religious principles were clear and scriptural, and his confidence in God unshaken. He bore all his afflictions with christian fortitude and resignation, feeling that the Great Disposer of events, has an undoubted right to do with his creatures as he pleases. The writer frequently conversed with him—with great pleasure and delight. The very great difficulty which he experienced in hearing, combined with his bodily infirmity, rendered it impossible for him to enjoy the privileges of the house of God for some years past; still he was always cheerful and ready to talk most satisfactorily on the great truths of the gospel, which were his comfort and joy until death.

He spoke of death as having no terror to him, but that whether he lived or died all was well, Christ was his—on his precious blood he rested

his soul. His last words were, "All is well." "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord." His funeral was improved by the writer, from John xiv. 1-3.

JAMES A. STUBBERT.

Deerfield, Sept. 8, 1857.

JOHN SANDERS.

Died—at East Dalhousie, on the 8th of September, aged 75 years. Blessed with the pious example and godly admonitions of pious parents, and sitting under the mighty and life imparting ministry of the Hardings, Mannings, Chipmans and Ansleys, his mind was early impressed with his lost condition. He struggled with strong convictions for upwards of thirty years, he then united with the church under the care of the Rev. T. Ansley. Immediately after his connection with the church, his mind was much exercised about public speaking, against which he strove for many years, which prevented much spiritual enjoyment. He possessed a very enquiring mind, and was much given to reading. He had a clear and comprehensive view of the great and glorious scheme of grace, about which he always seemed delighted to converse. A few years before his death he removed to Dalhousie, where there were but few professors of religion, and his spirit became greatly stirred, and his mind arose above surrounding difficulties, and he took a deep interest in establishing and extending the cause of God in that place. In the month of August he became seriously afflicted with dropsy which he believed would terminate his mortal career. This produced great depression of spirits. He endured a severe conflict until a few days before his death, when the storm-cloud was dispersed and he was enabled to realize to his soul's satisfaction his interest in Christ, and calmly and cheerfully to enter the dark valley and shadow of death. His death produced a deep impression on the community around, and his funeral was attended by a large concourse of persons of all denominations for many miles around.—Communicated by Rev. N. Vidito. Paradise, Oct. 4.

WILLIAM GILLEAD.

Died, at Wadeville, April 17th, Mr. William Gillead, aged 86 years.

Mr. G. was a native of England, but resided in Nova Scotia nearly all his life. He was afflicted for many years, so that it was seldom he could enjoy the blessings of public worship; but he highly prized the visits of ministers and pious people who came to see him in his protracted affliction, which he was enabled to hear with patience. He was for many years a member of the Baptist Church in Lower Granville. His end was peace. His family and friends are comforted in the hope that he is now beyond the reach of trouble.—Com. by Rev. Geo. Armstrong.

WILLIAM WEATHERS.

Died, at Wadeville, May 20th, Mr. William Weathers, aged 63 years.

Bro. W. was a member of the Church in Lower Granville, but usually worshipped with his brethren at Wadeville, connected with the Baptist Church at Bridgetown. He professed religion over twenty-five years, and walked consistently with his high profession. He was a kind, humble, quiet christian man. His views of truth were sound, and his life illustrated his principles. He was ready to every good work, in the support of the ministry of the gospel, or contributing liberally according to his means to send the Word of Life to the destitute. His loss is much felt in the community, but most of all in his own family and by his bereaved companion. But his end was that of the righteous, and this enables them to mourn not as those without hope. May their end be like his.—Jb.

MRS. FANNY CHUTE.

Died, suddenly, near Bridgetown, Sept. 8th, Fanny, relict of the late Ezra Chute, aged 49 years.

Mrs. C. was a member of the Baptist Church at Bridgetown, and adorned the profession she made. Amid much affliction she maintained and manifested the spirit of faith, love, and meekness. She was generally in her place in the house of God, when sickness and inclement weather did not prevent. In her last illness she manifested a sweet resignation to the divine will, truly edifying and comforting to those who witnessed it. Her life gives us reason to hope that she was a partaker of the grace of Christ, and that death to her was gain. She leaves parents, brothers and sisters, and several children to mourn the loss they have sustained in the removal of one who was kind and faithful in all the relations and duties of life. We miss her in the church of God, but she has joined the family above.—Jb.

JACOB WITT.

Died, suddenly, near Bridgetown, Sept. 12th, Mr. Jacob Witt, aged 43 years. He leaves a widow and four children to mourn their irreparable loss.

Mr. W. was a member of the Baptist Church in Bridgetown, and a useful and respected man in the community. He died in the Lord, sustained by his presence and grace. The message came suddenly, and unexpectedly, but his trust was in Jesus, and he committed himself to his hands. His bereaved widow, friends, and brethren are comforted by the hope and assurance that he is gone to be with his Saviour. May we heed the divine admonition,—"Be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not the son of man cometh."—Jb.