

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

By Rev. Charles Tupper, D. D.

CHAPTER IV.

LABORS AS A LICENTIATE.

(No. 2.)

Having understood that the Baptist Church at Newport was destitute of a preacher, and desired to be visited by one, in accordance with a purpose cherished for some time, and the advice of my Pastor, I set out for that place on the 24th day of April. As I had been informed that the Church there was in a dark state, I thought that I would keep near the Lord, and so take light to them. But on my way thither I fell into a state of deep depression of spirits, and extreme mental darkness. It seemed almost impossible for me either to pray, or to meditate on divine things. The temptation to abandon the work of the ministry at once, under the impression that I was not called to it, nor even a partaker of grace, pressed heavily upon me. In this state of severe trial I proceeded to the residence of Bro. George Dimock, where I attempted to preach on the evening of the 27th. Though it seemed scarcely possible for me to commence, yet in the course of the exercise the cloud of darkness was dispelled, and a considerable degree of liberty was enjoyed.

Though Brother Dimock is still spared to us, it is not probable that he will suffer any injury from an honest expression of the view which I was led to entertain of him. The appropriate and impressive exhortation which he delivered at the close of my discourse, while it delighted and edified me, strongly suggested to my mind the thought, that it was quite unnecessary for me to go to that place to preach, since there was evidently a better preacher resident there. His modesty and diffidence, however, deterred him from entering the ministry till several years after that time. The conversation and counsels of this worthy Brother and his excellent wife, were highly consoling and profitable to me. During this first visit to Newport I formed a pleasant and beneficial acquaintance with a number of decidedly pious people. Though they considered themselves in a low state with regard to religion, yet it was evident that religious conversation was their delight, and that the interests of the cause lay near their hearts.

Being indisposed in bodily health, I applied for medical aid to the late Dr. Dennison; at whose hospitable residence Mrs. Tupper and I tarried subsequently during the session of the Central Association at Newport in the year 1854. He very kindly entertained me when I first called upon him, and gratuitously gave me advice and furnished me with medicines, whenever I was in that region, and had occasion for either. Such acts of kindness deserve grateful remembrance.

In Rawdon I formed a gratifying acquaintance with the late justly venerated James Stevens. With his pious and amiable wife, whose maiden name was Esther Loomer, I had been acquainted from my childhood. With these godly persons, therefore, I was at once quite at home. This benevolent brother was, among us, the individual who first proposed and commenced the raising of a Fund for the relief of infirm Ministers and the widows and orphans of deceased Ministers. Considering, as he stated, that while he had been accumulating property, those of his brethren who had devoted their lives to the work of the gospel ministry had been precluded from the opportunity of making provision for a season of old age or infirmity, or of laying up any thing for their widows and fatherless children, he prudently suggested the propriety of having a fund provided for these purposes, and generously set the example by giving a liberal donation. The names of such benefactors evidently ought to be embalmed in the memories of their survivors.

On the 3rd day of May, I preached at the house of the late venerable Joseph Bradshaw, in what is now called Kempt. An unusual degree of seriousness pervaded the congregation. Several persons evinced deep concern. Though it was needful for me to return to Cornwallis, yet in compliance with earnest request, I promised (D. V.) to visit the people there again in the space of four weeks.

On my way back to Cornwallis I had in contemplation to preach in Windsor town; but there did not appear to be an opportunity for it. Doubtless there were pious people in the town; but, so far as I could learn, they seemed to be very scarce. On my inquiring of a clerk

in a store, if they had any religious books for sale, he answered in the negative, and added, "This is not a religious place." Unquestionably there is still room for farther improvement; but a happy change has manifestly been effected in Windsor since that time.

While passing through Upper Falmouth, by the old Road, I availed myself of an opportunity to preach in a private house. As I had no Bible with me, I asked for one. Though both the man and his wife appeared to regard themselves as pious, yet they had only a small and tattered portion of the first part of the Old Testament. As this did not contain the text on which I designed to speak, I went to a neighboring house, informed the people of my appointment, and requested the loan of a Bible or a Testament. The mistress of the house expressed surprise that those where I was about to preach should send me to them to borrow; "For," said she, "they know we won't lend them any thing." I replied that I was not sent, but came of my own accord, to borrow for myself. She then suggested that I was a stranger, and intimated some doubt as to the safety of lending to me. To obviate this objection I proposed to leave in pawn a sufficient amount to insure the safe return of the book. Hereupon she seemed to feel herself constrained to acknowledge the fact, which she had sedulously endeavored to conceal, that they had neither the whole Bible nor the New Testament. It was, indeed, to me matter of surprise and grief, that families apparently in comfortable circumstances, and professedly Protestant, living in this land of Bibles, should be destitute of the sacred Scriptures. I concluded, however, that I must henceforth constantly carry a Bible with me. Happily I had at that time so much of the Lord's word committed to memory, that it was not difficult for me to select a suitable text, name the book, chapter, and verse, and repeat it correctly. It is true, indeed, that people may have the inspired writings in their houses, and large portions of them in their heads; and yet not have saving grace in their hearts; but those who do not even keep the word of God in their places of habitation, evince a fearful disregard of His will and authority, and an alarming indifference to their own spiritual and everlasting welfare.

For the Christian Messenger.

Amherst College, Mass.

Dear Brother,

Every liberal-minded man must rejoice in the movements now going on in the United States for enlarged endowments of Colleges. The wealthy among our neighbours shew a most praise-worthy appreciation of knowledge and science by their generous contributions "out of their abundance," in which good work they are heartily seconded by numbers who, though not wealthy, are forward to help according to their means. The educational zeal displayed in the Great Republic is a moral phenomenon that cannot be sufficiently admired.

The statements contained in the Christian Messenger of the 28th ult. were very cheering. It is delightful to see what streams of dollars are flowing out to the Colleges. As I read those statements, I was reminded of some very interesting details given by the late Dr. Hitchcock in his "Reminiscences of Amherst College." A brief outline may be acceptable to your readers. Amherst College was opened in 1821, with 59 students. The statistics shew that from that year to 1863, both included, 2237 young men matriculated, and that the graduates numbered 1520. This is glorious success.

But the College has passed through great difficulties, and at one time seemed to be verging on extinction. A heavy debt rested on it. Efforts to procure an adequate endowment had failed. The people began to be "exceedingly nervous" under repeated solicitations for help, and "the students and the public saw that every thing was going wrong." The premises themselves groaned under it: "every thing wore the appearance of poverty and dilapidation, such as unpainted buildings, and muddy and break-neck sidewalks." It was even suggested by some timid ones that it might be better to "change the College into an Academy of a high grade."

This was in 1845, the year in which Dr. Hitchcock assumed the Presidency. He saw the danger and took prompt measures to avert it. The other Professors concurring with him, the Faculty assumed for a time the entire charge of the College, financially and otherwise. The number of students that year was 118, and the "Term-bills" for tuition and other fees were 49 dollars a year each, giving an income of \$5864. The Faculty received those payments, and the interest of such funds as the College possessed

(which could not be used for the liquidation of debts), dividing the proceeds among themselves, on a scale previously fixed. This lowered their salaries for about three years. But the people saw that they were in earnest, and that under the management of such men the Institution was likely to prosper. They began to rally round them. Large-hearted men presented princely donations. A grant of \$25,000 was obtained from the State. College debts were cleared off. New buildings were erected. Professorships were endowed. The deficiencies of the salaries of those three years were paid. Amherst College was placed on a firm and safe foundation.

But I cannot do better than quote from Dr. Hitchcock's volume.

"I shall spend but little time in detailing the financial history of the College since its passage through the Red Sea of difficulties in the pathway made through the waters parted by the wand of Providence. Though we found ourselves with funds enough to pay our debts and meet ordinary expenses, yet the wants of the Institution had become numerous, and to make it such as it ought to be we still needed the fostering care of individual beneficence as well as the exercise of rigid economy. Still we have found it easier to persuade wealthy and benevolent gentlemen to aid us than during our most needy condition, because they were then fearful that we might sink in the struggle, and then all their donations would be lost: but now they see that permanence is inscribed upon our walls and that their benefactions are sure to bless a long succession of generations. I doubt not that such impressions had some influence in procuring the \$10,000 for the Appleton Cabinet; perhaps also the \$1,165 for the Nineveh Gallery, the \$1000 for the Geological Lecture Room, and the thousands of dollars for the purchase of footmarks and other specimens. Also, at more recent dates, the benefactions of S. A. Hitchcock, Dr. Walker, David Sears, Jonathan Phillips, and others, for scholarships and books." But perhaps the best way to give an idea of the present state of the finances will be to copy several items from the Treasurer's Report.

FUNDS OF THE COLLEGE.

Table listing various funds and their amounts, including Williston Professorship of Rhetoric and Oratory, Graves Professorship of Greek and Hebrew, Hitchcock Professorship of Natural Theology and Geology, Massachusetts Professorship of Chemistry and Natural History, Charity Fund, Stimpson Fund, Moore Scholarships for Indigent Students, Adams Benevolent Fund, Hitchcock Scholarships for Indigent, meritorious students, Sears Foundation of Literature and Benevolence, Thirty Shares in Randolph Bank, Legacy of Hon. Jonathan Phillips, Legacy from Rich'd Bond, Esq., Donation from Dr. J. W. Walker, From the same, for half the cost of a new Philosophical Cabinet, and \$5000 each from Samuel Williston, Samuel A. Hitchcock, and James Smith, Esqrs.

These are the principal items. The result is, that the College now possesses, besides its numerous and substantial buildings, funds bearing annual interest of at least \$13,000. Deducting \$4,700, appropriated by direction of the donors to the assistance of meritorious students, we have an income of \$8,300, to which add the proceeds of the "Term-bills" of the Students, now reduced to \$42 a year. The average number of students for the last ten years has been 226; the income from that source, therefore, is \$9,492. Total income, \$17,792.

There are five other Colleges in the state of Massachusetts, and they are all, I believe, amply endowed.

The fact is, there are a great many men in this state, and in other States of the Union, who have come to the conclusion that the money God has given them is to be employed for the advancement of knowledge and truth. They are the truest friends of their country. The sums so expended are guarantees for good order, good morals, and general prosperity. They are investments of the most profitable kind.

I know that we have not many rich men, in

the strict sense of the word, in this province, and in our own denomination. But we have many who are exceedingly well-to-do, and on whose property the Lord has claims which have not yet been fully met. Some of them have shown themselves friends of Acadia College. The names of others are not yet enrolled among her-benefactors. A few score donations, from a hundred to a thousand dollars each, which might be easily given, and which, as Dr. Maclay used to say, "they would never miss," would place our endowment on a solid footing.

I did hope that the appeal made to our churches in the Spring of this year would meet with a liberal response. The Treasurer's Report shews our disappointment. The churches which have not forwarded the sums asked for, and those brethren who are not yet "tired" of giving (that would be a very un-baptist-like thing!) have still the opportunity of rendering needful aid, and thus preventing the discredit arising from salaries in arrears and buildings half protected from the weather.

Yours truly, J. M. CRAMP.

Acadia College, Oct. 4th, 1864.

For the Christian Messenger.

Yarmouth Co. Sabbath School Convention.

Mr. Editor,—

The following is a condensed Report of the Annual Meeting of the Yarmouth Co. Baptist Sabbath School Convention, held at Hebron, on Wednesday 21st ult.

Convention met at 10 1/2 o'clock, A. M. President B. B. Moses in the chair. Minutes of last meeting read and approved.

Letters read and Delegates present from the schools at Yarmouth, Hebron, Chegogin, Ohio, Tusket, Deerfield, and Lake George.

Convention proceeded to the election of Officers for the ensuing year as follows:—

- B. B. Moses, President. N. Corning, Jeremiah Vickery, James Crosby, Wm. Churchill, S. F. Raymond, Secretary. George Trask, Assistant Secretary. J. C. Blackader, Treasurer.

On motion it was resolved to hold the next Annual Meeting on the fourth Wednesday in September, instead of the third, and that each School in the County be requested to hand in a full statistical report to the Secretary of this Convention, two weeks previous to that meeting.

Brother J. C. Blackader was appointed to read an Essay at the first Quarterly Meeting to be held at Beaver River, on the third Wednesday in December.

Adjourned till 2 o'clock, P. M.

Afternoon Session opened with singing an appropriate piece by the Juvenile Choir, and prayer by Deacon N. Corning. After some introductory remarks by the President, the Rev. A. Martell spoke at some length on the following resolution:—

Resolved, That the high destiny of the human race, and the interminable influence of the habits of life, make it imperative on all Sabbath School teachers, and others, to secure the largest attendance of children and the most evangelical training as preparatory to that excellent future that awaits them.

This was seconded by N. Corning, and followed by good addresses from James Crosby, Geo. Trask and others, interspersed with music by the Juvenile Choir.

On motion it was resolved, That an attempt be made to assemble together all the members of Baptist Sabbath Schools in the County, both teachers and scholars, at the next Annual Meeting of this Convention, hoping thereby to increase the interest of all in the Sabbath School cause.

James Crosby, Nathaniel Butler, Wm. Durkee, George Trask, and N. Corning, were appointed a Committee (with power to increase their number by one delegate appointed from each school) for the purpose of preparing through the coming year for the grand gathering.

It is hoped that each school will bear this resolution in mind, and endeavor to carry out the wishes of this committee, and all do their part in making that meeting interesting and profitable.

S. F. RAYMOND, Secretary.

For the Christian Messenger.

MR. EDITOR,

I sent you a poetic article for publication, entitled "Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island," to which I forgot to affix my signature; consequently, it appeared in the C. M. of Jan. 20th, as an anonymous communication. In the lines on P. E. Island, there was a typographical error