

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

By Rev. Charles Tupper, D. D.

CHAPTER IV.

LABORS AS A LICENTATE.

(No. 12.)

January 28th I proceeded down the Bay Shore, and visited Advocate Harbor. In the space of seven days, besides visiting many families, admonishing them, reading and praying with them, I preached ten sermons. One of these discourses was delivered under peculiarly trying circumstances. A youth about sixteen years of age was killed—to appearance instantaneously—by the fall of a tree, while chopping in the woods alone. The Coroner, who was a pious man, and sometimes preached, was expected to officiate at the burial; but the weather was extremely cold, and he, being aged and infirm, did not attend. Having gone to the house of mourning with the expectation of being merely a hearer, I was requested to preach a funeral sermon—a service never attempted by me before—without any previous notice. Moreover, as the deceased was summoned to appear before his Judge in a moment, without having given any evidence of preparation for the solemn event, there was no opportunity afforded me to address words of consolation to the bereaved and distressed mourners with reference to their departed relative. It seemed to me, however, as it always has since, that preachers of the gospel ought to improve all occasions presented for impressing the minds of their fellow men with a sense of the extreme uncertainty of human life, and the vast importance of being in readiness to exchange worlds. I therefore complied, as has been my invariable practice ever since, with the request to improve this solemn visitation for the benefit of the living.

Having preached at Half-way River, West Brook, Maccan, and Little Forks, I proceeded to Napan, and tarried at the house of Brother Samuel McCully, with whom an interesting acquaintance was commenced at that time. He was a Baptist preacher, but not ordained. Receiving no salary, he was not then devoted to the work of the ministry; but usually preached on the Sabbaths, and occasionally on week-day evenings. He readily admitted the propriety of my view, that it is highly desirable for a minister of the gospel to be exempt from worldly cares, and unreservedly engaged in the work of the Lord; and expressed a desire to be in that state. It was evident that he was a man of strong mind, deep thought, undisssembled piety, and sound views of religious truth. The friendly and pleasing Christian intercourse which then began between us, happily continued to the close of his life. On Lord's day, February 16th,—48 years before the day on which these lines are written we held public worship together in Amherst. He preached in the morning. Though his discourse was not as methodical as one that I had recently heard delivered by a minister of another denomination, yet it pleased me much better; as it was plainer, more discriminating, and closer in application. My Diary contains the following remark made on the occasion:—No preaching will profit except accompanied by the special operation of the Spirit of God; but this is the only kind that is calculated to do good, and that is likely to be blessed. In the afternoon the Lord was graciously pleased to favor me with freedom in speaking to the people from Rom. xii. 1, 2.

The Baptist Church in Amherst was then the only one in the County of Cumberland. It contained very few members; and of these a considerable proportion lived remote from each other. They had, indeed, good preaching a part of the time; but neither pastoral labor, nor prayer meetings, and discipline was greatly neglected. It scarcely needs therefore to be added, that the state of religion with them was low. While laboring in this place I providentially met with my late esteemed brother Timothy Weather's; and, at his request accompanied him to River Philip, the place of his residence. He and his amiable wife, with other members of that family, were from that time invariably steadfast and highly useful friends to me. At this place I tarried till the next Sabbath, preaching frequently and visiting families. It was gratifying to me to form an acquaintance with the late venerable John Black, a Methodist local preacher, who readily united with me in

religious exercises, and ever after evinced toward me a courteous and friendly disposition. Such Christian intercourse among people and preachers of different denominations, without any sacrifice, or compromise, of sentiments conscientiously entertained, is very pleasant, and highly conducive to the furtherance of the general interests of the cause of Christ.

Remarks made to me, while at River Philip led me to reflect especially on the diversities of complaints alleged against preachers, and the impossibility of satisfying all parties. One man remarked to me, with reference to Mr. P. the Methodist circuit preacher who spent a portion of the time there, "I do not like his preaching; he does not sufficiently warn the wicked of his way, and tell him of the consequences of dying in his sins." Another observed to me, "I am not satisfied with Mr. P.'s preaching; for he is too rash in throwing out terror." I was aware, from credible information, that in other places equally discordant complaints had been made against me. An individual of some note and influence, regarded me as such a fanatic, exciting needless alarm and disquietude among the people, that I ought not to be suffered to go at large. A man of a different stamp, having heard me, remarked, "Oh! he is nothing but a Presbyterian; I do hate that regular way."

At Westchester, (formerly called Cobequid Mountain,) it cheered my heart to find among the "poor of this world" some that were evidently "rich in faith." By these my labors, both in public and in private, were obviously received with gratitude and delight.

ERRATA.—C. M., Feb. 22nd, p. 61, "No. 11," line 22, for "pursuing in the path," read "persevering," &c. line 48, for "affection," read "affection."

THE YORUBA CHRISTIANS.

AN EXAMPLE FOR US.

Perhaps no one who reads this can recollect when he or she first heard the gospel. In this happy land we are born amidst its blessings. In heathen countries millions have, to this day, never heard the good news. But many have heard it, and, if we do not take care, some of these will put us to shame. How? Because, in proportion to their means, they do more to spread the gospel, though they have only lately heard it, than we do, who have heard it from our birth.

The gospel reached the Yoruba country, in Africa, about ten years ago. Now, there are many hundreds of Yoruba Christians. Some of these have been proved by fierce persecution and cruel torture. Others have proved themselves by their anxiety for the souls of their friends and countrymen. For instance a Missionary meeting was lately held in Abbeokuta. An African clergyman, once a slave, took the chair and there was not one white man present. Mr. King (the chairman) made a speech, and then some of the people spoke.

One said, "When we die, what we leave behind us will be for others. But what we give now to Jesus will be ours forever. Therefore, let us show our love to Jesus, according to the means each one possesses."

Another, who had been a very wicked man, said, "Was there any so bad as I was? But see what Christ, by His gospel, has wrought in me! Let us show our thankfulness to God for His mercy."

A third made this odd remark, "I am quite willing to put myself in pawn, if it is needful, to serve the Lord Jesus Christ, for what he has done for me."

When a Yoruban wants money, and cannot get it in any other way, he pledges or pawns himself, for a time, to some one who will lend him the money he wants. In other words, he becomes the domestic slave, as to part of his time, to the lender. He is obliged to labor for him instead for himself; this labor being the interest the lender receives for his money. He must continue to work in this way till the money is repaid. So you see what the speaker was willing to do for Christ. Like David, he was not willing to offer God only that which would cost him nothing. And it was not all talk. The collection was made about a fortnight after the meeting. So eager were the people to give, that they crowded to the table like bees when they swarm.

"If I had had six hands," said Mr. King, "I could not have put their names down fast enough." They cried out—"*Fi oruko mi sille!* *Fi oruko mi sille!*" (Put my name down! Put my name down!) Some of the school children were not behind. A little girl came up and said, "*Put my name down for thirty strings.*" This is, strings of the little shells called cowries, worth

a penny. Mr. King might well be astonished, as he was. So he told her it was of no use putting her name down for more than she could pay. She still, however, persisted, "I know it. I will pay it."

The whole collection amounted, in English, to twenty-five pounds!—"This," says Mr. King, "is what our new converts have done. Though there were some who gave out of their abundance, yet many cheerfully gave to the Lord, as the poor widow in the gospel, nearly all they possessed. This we call an example for us.—Missionary Token.

For the Christian Messenger.

LINES

On the Death of Mrs. Maggie Sutherland, who died at West River, Pictou, Feb. 5th, 1865.

Weep not my friend though one you loved,
Lies slumbering in the grave;
Her weary spirit is at rest,
She's gone to God who gave.
He in his wisdom cannot err,
He knoweth what is best;
And snatched her from this world of care,
And called her home to rest.

She's freed from many an anxious care,
From many a heart-felt pain;
Then why would you one moment wish
To call her back again.

'Tis hard to bear affliction's rod,
And bid our hearts be still;
To look beyond the darkening clouds,
And meekly learn God's will.

But oh! there's hope beyond the grave,
There's joy to you then given;
Though one less tie to earth, you have
One treasure more in heaven.

Think not of her as in the grave,
Shut out from loving eyes;
But view her in her blest abode,
With Christ above the skies.

And let it be our constant aim,
While life and health are given;
To have our hearts aright with God,
And meet again in heaven.

Those little ones who ne'er shall know,
A mother's loving care;
God will protect and may He keep,
Their feet from every snare.

My heart-felt sympathy you have,
My prayer that God would give,
You strength to bear his sovereign will,
While on this earth you live.

Canning, Feb. 9th, 1865.

Provincial Parliament.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

TUESDAY, Feb. 28th.

Several bills were read a second time. Mr. Jost presented a petition from Chester asking for a bill to establish an office for the Registry of Deeds in that district.

Mr. Levesconte called attention to a petition for the erection of a light house at Green Island, in the north side of the entrance of the Strait of Canso.

Mr. Churchill suggested the advisability of blasting the rock in the locality in question. Mr. Levesconte stated that the former Admiral had pronounced it impracticable to blast the rock successfully.

Hon. Fin. Sec. stated that the light house was not only required by our own shipping but by a very large number of foreign vessels that during the season of navigation made use of the Strait. The work would be therefore a boon to the commercial world.

Hon. Prov. Sec. laid on table copies of correspondence relative to the presentation by Her Majesty of copies of the speeches and addresses of his late Royal Highness the Prince Consort to the Legislative Library and King's College, Windsor.

Hon. Fin. Sec. laid on the table a list of all petitions for money.

Hon. Prov. Sec. laid on the table copies of correspondence relative to the issue of swords and accoutrements to the militia.

Mr. Miller asked the leader of the Government if the answer of the Crown Lands Department to the question he put the other day included all the undecided cases in that office.

On reference to the enquiry put by Mr. Miller, it was found that it did not include the "undecided claims." Mr. Miller therefore wrote the question in a form that would enable him to obtain the information he required.

Railway Extension.—Mr. McLellan requested the Government to lay on the table copies of proposals made to them for the construction of railways to the borders of New Brunswick and Annapolis.

The House in committee passed the bill to incorporate the Acadia Coal Mining Company; the bill to incorporate the Stone Cutters and Masons Association; and the bill to incorporate the Royal Sussex Lodge of Free Masons.

In reference to the bill for the incorporation of the Waverly Gold Mining Company, Mr. Archibald thought some explanation should be

given of the reason why the shares were only one dollar each.

Hon. Mr. Shannon did not think that because the shares were small, doubts of the good faith of the bill could be fairly entertained.

Hon. Prov. Sec. could not see anything objectionable in the present bill, and he was sure that the hon. member for Colchester would be the last person who would be disposed to shut out a bill which was calculated to enable poor men to invest what they were able in gold mining operations.

Mr. Archibald said that when the shares were large, parties would naturally take more pains to ascertain the real character of the enterprise. He wished to guard carefully against the passing of any act that might be the instrument of injury to the people, and thought it would be advisable if the bill were allowed to lie over for the present.

Hon. Prov. Sec. laid on the table certain correspondence referring to a fog trumpet at Sambro.

Hon. Prov. Sec. laid on the table copies of correspondence relative to the difficulty with the miners at Sydney, last spring, the expense £388, has been paid conjointly by the local Government and the Mining Association.

Hon. Prov. Sec. by command, laid on the table the report of the Emigrant Agent for the past year.

Petitions were presented by Mr. Lawrence, Hon. Atty. Gen., Mr. McLellan; and Mr. Donkin, against Confederation.

WEDNESDAY, March 1st.

A number of bills were read a second time and referred to Committee on Private Bills.

The Dublin Exhibition.—The hon. Prov. Sec. laid on the table copies of correspondence relative to the Dublin International Exhibition.

Dr. Hamilton enquired by what authority the gentlemen given as the committee, in connection with this Exhibition, have been named. He thought it would be better if it were remembered at times that there are other interests beside those of Halifax; and that if we are to have grain represented and everything of that kind, it would be certainly well to have some gentlemen on the committee belonging to the country portions of the Province.

Hon. Prov. Sec. said the committee was not appointed by the Executive Government or by the city of Halifax. A number of gentlemen were brought together in the first instance upon the invitation of the Lieutenant Governor or through some communication from Dr. Honeyman. He was invited to a meeting of these gentlemen and stated if Dr. Honeyman who had paid some attention to the subject was prepared to submit a scheme by which it should be shown that the expenditure of a moderate amount of public money could secure a beneficial representation of the natural productions of the Province, especially of the mineral resources, the matter would be brought to the notice of the government. The government undertook, not to become responsible in any manner whatever in carrying forward this exhibition; but to apply to the Legislature for the amount of \$2000 as the entire contribution of the Province in aid of the object which these gentlemen have combined to promote. This exhibition is not to be merely temporary in its character, but is intended to form a Winter Garden Palace at which these products and everything that is calculated to present in a favourable light the resources of the province will remain a permanent advertisement in one of the chief cities of the United Kingdom.

Mr. Miller said it is a mistake that many persons fall into to imagine that Halifax is the Province of Nova Scotia. The committee is composed of gentlemen resident in Halifax with one or two exceptions. These gentlemen have no right to come forward and ask for a grant of the people's money under such circumstances.

Hon. Mr. McLellan thought the hon. member for Richmond complained rather more about this matter than he had reason. He had no doubt that the organization in question will contribute largely to the interests of this Province. It is composed of gentlemen who have contributed, largely of their own private means, and then have come forward asking the Government to give a small contribution for the promotion of the useful object they have in view. It is very doubtful if gentlemen could be induced to come from distant counties at their own expense. Suppose we had gone into a Provincial Exhibition, we would have incurred a very large expenditure—judging from our experience in connection with the last International Exhibition.

Mr. Archibald said he knew how inconvenient it is for gentlemen in the country to come to attend such affairs. Though his name is on the committee he had not yet been able to attend any of their meetings in consequence of pressing engagements. This Exhibition, will enable us to have our resources not merely temporarily, but permanently, illustrated, as stated in the papers just read. He considered the amount proposed to be given by the Provincial Government too small. He would have been disposed in a matter of this kind in which the Province is so deeply interested, to have contributed a much larger sum.

Mr. Miller said it was no answer to his objection to say that gentlemen from the country could not attend. At all events, their assistance might be solicited.

The remainder of the day was occupied by speeches of various gentlemen in reference to this subject. The Provincial Secretary and others, contending that the committee consisted of such names as fairly represented the province, and that if a large number of gentlemen had been appointed from the various parts of the province, it would have been open to serious objection, on account of the expense attending their travelling to Halifax to attend the meet-