

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

By Rev. Charles Tupper, D. D. CHAPTER IV. LABORS AS A LICENTIATE.

(No. 15.)

About the close of the month of February, I returned to the field of my stated labor. There were then no houses for public worship, excepting an Episcopal Church at Mill Village, in all that extensive region; and consequently religious meetings were held in private houses. In some of these I preached two or three times on each Sabbath, and very frequently on week-day evenings. To these latter services some persons objected, alleging that young people would avail themselves of such opportunities to get together for diversion and wickedness. It can not be denied that, through the depravity of human nature, instances may occur in which such abuse is made of meetings designed for the spiritual good of the people. But if the youth be not congregated for religious worship, they are very liable to be meeting together for carnal recreation, in which case they are much more likely to be drawn into the snares of vice. I could not, therefore, be persuaded to desist from holding evening meetings on account of the possibility of such perversion of them.

These labors, with frequent family visitations, and diligent study, were continued under much physical indisposition. My mind had, indeed, been strongly exercised on the subject of offering myself to the American Missionary Board, to go as a Missionary to Burmah; but medical advice and knowledge of my bodily infirmity constrained me to relinquish the idea. From the apprehension that my time to labor any where in the Lord's vineyard must be very short, I was desirous to work diligently while the day lasted. On Lord's day, March 23rd, though seriously indisposed, such was my reluctance to have the assembled congregation disappointed, that I endeavored to lead in the exercise of worship. While attempting to offer the first prayer I became faint, and had to be carried out of the room, and laid on a bed. My appearance was said—no doubt truly—to be that of a corpse. On recovering in some measure from faintness, I requested a pious man, a Presbyterian Elder, to read a sermon from a book which I had with me; and at the close of it arose, gave an exhortation, and prayed. Intense earnestness to labor while life should last, prompted me to make another appointment, and to preach in the afternoon.

Soon after this I spent an evening in company with a number of friends, among whom was a Mrs. B. who had been under deep conviction ever since my first visit to Five Islands. From the cheerful aspect of her countenance, and the apparent pleasure with which she joined with others in singing hymns, I judged that she had obtained consolation. Fearing she might be embarrassed by an abrupt inquiry, I began to ask others concerning the state of their minds, and so proceeded to enquire of her. She readily replied, "Last night if all the world had told me I would be saved, I could not have believed a word of it. This morning it all had told me I would be lost, I could not have been afraid." Her husband had formerly chided her on account of her sadness, and acknowledged that Christians might well be joyful; but she had replied, that she was troubled because she was not a Christian. Now, however, when she became joyful, he expressed strong disapproval of her confidence and joy, and remarked to her, "I will know whether it is a real change or not; I will see how you'll live." He added, "If it is a real change, I hope you will not tell any more lies." She mildly answered, "I hope I will not; for I have told a great many." He proceeded to remark, "If it is a real change, I hope you will not despise your poor neighbors." She meekly replied, "I hope I will not, for I have done so, and have despised the people of God; but I trust I will despise them no more." Finding that no taunts could ruffle her spirit, but that she prudently pursued a course adopted to disarm opposition, he desisted from taunting. Several years afterwards this man frankly admitted to me, that it was a real change in his wife. Her whole subsequent life clearly evinced it; and none can reasonably doubt that her happy spirit is now with her beloved Saviour.

After remaining about five weeks in that locality, I proceeded down the Bay. On the way between Fox River and Advocate Harbor it

was needful for me to travel some distance on the beach, and then to take the road. I recollected that in travelling up the Bay I had followed my guide down a very steep descent. While absorbed in meditation, I supposed that I had come to the same, and alighted and began to ascend. After proceeding a considerable distance, with great difficulty, I began to suspect, from its extreme steepness, that I must have mistaken the way. On examination I became convinced, that what I had taken for the path was a gutter produced by the running of water down the bluff. It now became a practical and serious question, What is to be done? An instance had occurred in the circle of my acquaintance in which a man, under the influence of alcoholic liquor, led his horse up the stairs into his chamber, but he could not lead him down. It seemed to me almost certain that, if I attempted to drive the beast down the precipice, he would break his neck; and if I undertook to lead him, he would break mine too. It therefore appeared to me indispensable to reach the summit, if possible. My beast being quiet and tractable, would stand still while I climbed, sometimes by the help of little shrubs or twigs, as far as the bridle would reach, and then, at my bidding, take several leaps, till he came near me. In this way we at last, through the kindness of Providence, arrived safely at the top of the bluff. I was never disposed to boast of my strength, agility, or horsemanship; but doubtless in this case a feat was unintentionally performed by me that has not been performed by any other man. Many persons have expressed astonishment at it, when viewing the steepness of the ascent. When, however, the bill of difficulty was ascended, all the trouble arising from this error was not at an end. My horse was in a position from which it was not in my power to extricate him. The snow was very deep, with a crust that would nearly bear him, but not quite, and there were numerous windfalls in the woods. Not knowing whither to go for help, I was providentially guided by the sound of an axe to the house of a Mr. Davis. My statement seemed to the family almost incredible; but some of them kindly accompanied me with axe and shovel, and, with much labor, succeeded in getting my horse safely to their stable. It must be acknowledged, with regret, that even this trying scene did not effectually cure me of that weakness through which I have ever been extremely liable to miss my way. May others learn from my errors to exercise greater caution!

For the Christian Messenger.

OBITUARY NOTICES.

THOMAS LYNDS.

Died at Onslow, on the 28th ult., Mr. Thomas Lynds, aged 73 years. Were our old ministers alive they would readily recognize the name as a patriarchal one, in the Baptist connexion. Thomas Lynds, Senr., and father of the present one, was among the first, if not the first, who was baptized in Onslow, and connected with the Baptist Church there. His house was for many years the retreat and home of our fathers in the ministry. As well also as a house of worship, where the people of God met to hear and speak the word of God, and to hold sweet communion together. In it Harris Harding was ordained, my father officiating. Some 25 years ago this winter, spending one of his vacations in this place, preached the funeral sermon of this aged man of God. The only surviving son, is our brother Dr. D. B. Lynds, of this place, now past four-score.

The subject of this notice professed religion some time ago and was baptized, he never joined any church. This we esteem an error, and to himself an injury. It was probably, from the fear of a formal religion, he overlooked a duty.

Of the necessity of a change of heart, and that wrought by the Holy Spirit, together with an experimental knowledge thereof in the subjects of this change, he was fully persuaded. During his life, he had been the subject of three seasons of severe mental depression. The last of which was just previous to his decease. The first two were, when the vigor of his physical constitution, was such as to sustain the shock more easily,—the last was in the infirmity of body, and the pressure of age. The physical and the physical are strongly, but intimately blended in us. The full exercise of the former, has produced wonderful effects upon the latter, while the latter has strongly blurred the form.

Faith has suffered at such times,—and the cry, next door to despair, has been "O my God, my soul is cast down within me." His earnest and continued cry was for the light of God's countenance. The future seemed not so much the subject of dread, as the present darkness benighted. Whether that darkness broke away before the curtain of eternity was uplifted, I do not know. That Saviour after whom his soul longed, we believe did not turn away his prayer. D. W. C. DIMOCK.

Truro, March 8th, 1865.

MRS. EMILY HARRIS.

Daughter of John and Mary Penton, of Essex, England, was born in the 23rd March, 1833. On the 19th August, 1857, in company with her brother-in-law and his wife, she left England

for Nova Scotia, and arrived in Halifax on the 7th of September of the same year.

While in Halifax she became acquainted with the late Rev. Richard McLearn, in whom, while he lived, she found a true and valued friend. Through his kindness she was introduced to his friends in Windsor, and on the 4th of May, 1861, united (by letter) with the Baptist Church of that place. On the 18th of Dec., 1862, she was united in marriage to Elijah P. Harris, Esq., Merchant of Windsor, from whom and her two children—one of them an infant, after a very short illness, on the 12th of Feb., 1865, she was removed to a better world.

The qualities of heart and mind which Mrs. Harris naturally possessed were of a high order; but her character derived its chief excellence, not from the endowments of nature, but from the transformations of grace. Here piety was of the deep and unobtrusive kind, and religious converse with God's people was her delight.

She kept a Diary from the time of her leaving England up to a few days before her death. In this Diary her religious history is faithfully portrayed, and the delineations it contains of christian experience, are among the most touching and interesting that have ever come under my eye.

In the community, and in the church of which she was a member, she will be greatly missed. But especially will she be missed in that home of which she was once the light and joy, but which now seems lonely and desolate indeed. May God look down with tender care upon the motherless babes, and may the bereaved husband derive comfort and consolation by carrying his sorrows to that Jesus, to whose eternal embrace his sainted wife has gone.

The occasion of her death was improved in a sermon preached by the pastor of the Church, from Rev. xxi. 4, "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."—Com. by Rev. D. M. Welton.

MRS. REBECCA TIBERT.

Beloved wife of James Tibert, of Greenfield, and daughter of Mr. Samuel Hunt, Senr., of the same place, aged 35 years and 9 months, died of Consumption, Feb. 22nd, 1865, after a lingering sickness of about fifteen months, leaving a husband and five children to mourn their loss, with a large circle of relatives and friends. May God give unto them the comfort of his grace and spirit.

Sister Tibert was born at Pleasant River, Queens Co., N. S., on the 22nd day of May, in the year 1829. Afterwards the family removed at Greenfield, where Sister Tibert, when in the seventeenth year of her age professed faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and united with the Baptist Church at that place, during the revival of religion which took place here in the year 1848, witnessed by the Revs. G. Armstrong, R. Dickie, W. Goucher, (then a licentiate), and J. A. Stubbart, the latter being Pastor of the Church at that time.

Sister Tibert's christian career was, as the shining light which shineth more and more unto the perfect day. She was a follower of Christ indeed. She lived loving all, and was beloved by all who knew her. She lived to die, and died to live. Her conversation was always seasoned with grace, and her manner were affable and pleasant.

Sister thou wast mild and lovely, Gentle as the summer breeze; Pleasant as the air of evening, When it floats among the trees.

The sufferings of Sister Tibert were quite intense especially towards the last, but she bore them with patience, feeling as she expressed herself from time to time, to be in the hands of her heavenly Father, who is too good to be unkind and too wise to err. Her faith and hope were strong even to the last.

Dearest sister thou hast left us, Here thy loss we deeply feel, But 'tis God that hath bereft us; He can all our sorrows heal.

May God sanctify this solemn dispensation of his providence, to the spiritual welfare of all who were present.—Com. by T. M. Munro. Greenfield, Queens Co.

MRS. MARY WADE.

Beloved wife of Dea. Joseph Wade, died at Wadeville, Feb. 7th, in the 74th year of her age. Mrs. W. was a daughter of the late William Parker, of Aylesford; and experienced the pardoning love of God when she was only thirteen years of age; was baptized by the late Rev. Thos. H. Chipman, and united with the Baptist Church at Nictaux. It may not perhaps be wrong to mention that the first five pounds Miss Parker owned, she devoted to the cause of Christ,—to aid in building the Baptist Meeting-house, in Upper Aylesford. Our departed sister was married twice;—first to Mr. Job Randall; and subsequently to the beloved brother who now mourns her departure. Mrs. W. lived eighteen years at Wadeville—she was kind, attentive to spiritual duties, and faithful to the end. She died in peace and hope, leaning upon Jesus, and feeling that his blood cleanses from all sin.—Communicated.

MRS. DANIEL BISHOP.

Died in Annapolis, near Bridgetown, Oct. 21st, 1864, Mrs. Daniel Bishop, aged 72 years. Mrs. B. was for many years a member of the Baptist Church. She loved her Saviour, and strove to live to his glory. Throughout her protracted afflictions, she was strengthened and sustained by the word and grace of Christ. She died in hope of eternal glory through the merit of her Lord. May her children and friends follow her as she followed the dear Redeemer.—Com.

Provincial Parliament.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

TUESDAY, March 14th.

Hon. Prov. Sec. laid on the table the report of the Commissioner of Mines. Several bills were read a third time.

Mr. Pryor introduced a bill to incorporate the Cambridge Coat Mining Company, which was read a second time.

Hon. Mr. Shannon introduced an act to incorporate the Cape Breton Mining Company, of Port Hood, Inverness.

Mr. Bourinot introduced a bill to amend chap 45 R. S., an Assessment, and in doing so he stated that in the county of Cape Breton properties which were of enormous value were estimated on the assessment roll at a very small amount. For example, mines that were worth from \$500 to \$600,000 were put down at \$7,000 only. Therefore a large proportion of the rates, it was quite obvious, had to be borne by the mass of the people of the county. The object of the bill was to give the clerk of the peace the power of calling the sessions together for the purpose of taking the matter into consideration and remedying it.

Licenses in Halifax.—Mr. Tobin presented a petition of the grocers in the city of Halifax, and stated that it appears that a law is to go into operation on the 15th of this month separating the sale of spirituous liquors by retail from that of groceries. The grocers complain that due notice was not given, and asked the House to take the matter into their favorable consideration.

Mr. Blanchard stated that last session the council sent up a bill in which the sale of liquors was restricted. He regretted to see it stated in the petition that the persons affected had no opportunity of defending their interests. The fact was that a number of them appeared before the committee on City Bills, and many gentlemen present would doubtless remember a very eloquent appeal that was made by one party engaged in this traffic. The committee reported up the bill as it then existed. Some discussion took place in the House and the hon. Attorney General (Mr. Johnston) suggested that the matter be referred to the City Council, and that they be allowed to make such restrictions as they might think proper. It was accordingly sent back to the Council to do as they might think proper, and they adopted such measures as they thought advisable. He did not think that the House should interfere between the City Council and their constituents.

Mr. Archibald presented a petition from Truro against the present school law.

Hon. Mr. Shannon reported the bill to incorporate the Commercial Bank of Windsor.

Mr. Hill presented a petition from E. Hausen, praying for a special grant for a road.

Hon. Prov. Sec. did not know of any parties who came before the government or legislature under more favorable circumstances than the petitioner. He was a partner of the gentleman who was present on the previous day with the mass of gold that attracted so much attention. He (Dr. T.) had no doubt that the government and the legislature would view the application favorably.

Mr. Bourinot was glad to hear from the Provincial Secretary that it was the duty of every government to make every effort to improve the means of communication to the mines, both of gold and coal, in this country. Every one knew that our coal mines contributed largely to the revenue, and it was but right that every means of communication should be afforded to the parties engaged in these enterprises. There were now upwards of 20 mines ready for work in Cape Breton some of which could not be reached by even a bridle path, and he was quite sure that when the government had cognizance of these facts, they would take them into their most serious consideration.

Hon. Prov. Sec. laid on the table, the report of the Chief Commissioner of Mines for 1864. Also copies of correspondence upon the visit to this port of the cruiser Tallahassee.

Mr. Archibald presented a petition from a number of miners relative to the law of Patents.

Asylum for Inebriates.—Mr. Longly presented a petition from the Grand Division of Sons of Temperance, for the establishment of an asylum for the reformation of inebriates. Also a bill in accordance with the prayer thereof, and said that he did so in deference to the opinions of several respectable persons in Halifax, and he would move that it be referred to a special committee with a view to enable these gentlemen to appear before it and explain their views. He said that the principle of the bill was to tax the rum-seller for the support of those unfortunates who had been brought to that state by this means, but as it would be difficult to get at them in the first instance the Legislature would have to be applied to for aid. He had scarcely had time to examine the bill and he might say that it did not exactly accord with his views. In his opinion nothing but entire prohibition would do.

Mr. LaVescotte said he considered that as long as the House maintained the policy of deriving a large amount of revenue from the rum traffic, they should not look down upon those engaged in a legitimate traffic—and he could not see why they should be taxed for this object any more than anybody else.

Mr. Longly had no wish to say a word offensive to a class of persons many of whom were highly respectable. But he would ask, if through the operation of this business men were ruined and became nuisances to society, what persons could be more legitimately taxed for their maintenance than those who contribu-