

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

BY REV CHARLES TUPPER, D. D.

CHAPTER XIII.

FOURTH RESIDENCE IN AMHERST.

(No. 1.)

On the 15th day of May, 1840, my labors were resumed in Amherst and adjacent places.

My attendance at the first meeting of the Total Abstinence Society revealed to me the painful fact, that my religious friends, doubtless in the hope of furthering a good cause, by securing the co-operation of some irreligious men, and promoting their welfare, had agreed to have no prayer offered at the public meetings.

In June it afforded me much pleasure to attend an interesting Examination of Students in Acadia College, Wolfville, and subsequently to meet my Nova Scotia Brethren in a pleasant Association in Liverpool.

I never placed confidence in dreams. There are instances, however, in which the language of Dr. Young is verified:—

"Dull sleep instructs; nor sport vain dreams in vain." As the Scriptures allow one to "tell a dream" (Jer. xxiii. 28.) it may be at least pardonable in me to do so in a solitary and remarkable case.

After my return to Amherst, a very unusual case occurred in which some disagreement arose between me and another man with reference to dealings. I had serious thoughts of suing him; but, on mature consideration, as such an action had never been done by me—it has not been to this day—I judged it better to "suffer myself to be defrauded." (1 Cor. vi. 7.)

I dreamed that the individual to whom reference has been made was found evidently murdered; and that, as I was known to have passed that way just before the dead body was discovered, I was apprehended, tried, condemned, and placed on a scaffold for execution.

As the death-sentence was just about to be carried into execution, I awoke, and, behold, it was a dream. It was, however, a useful one; for the caution in it administered to others has sometimes occurred to me beneficially when any thing has transpired adapted to excite resentment. It is here recorded in the hope that it may also be profitable to others.

In the contemplation of performing a Mission appointed me on Prince Edward Island, I wrote for the Christian Messenger an article on the Duty of Domestic Missionaries. In it a suggestion was offered to the effect, that, while their main business, in which their whole souls ought to be absorbed, is to win souls to Christ, several collateral duties may properly receive attention from them.

From my own personal observation during extensive tours, it was evident to me, as it continues to be, that the perusal of our valuable

Periodical is highly conducive to the welfare of its readers, and also to the promotion of various benevolent and philanthropic objects. While on this tour, which extended from Aug. 10th to Sept. 30th, I endeavored to act in accordance with the advice tendered by me; and apparently with favorable results.

Most of the places where we had any interest established on the Island were visited. Christian friends seemed much cheered and revived. It was my privilege to aid my esteemed Bro. B. Scott in his useful labors at Charlottetown and Lot 49; as also my valued Bro. J. Shaw, in a precious revival at Three Rivers. It was remarkable that this gracious work, in which between 80 and 40 persons professed faith, prevailed principally among elderly people; and, if I mistake not, at one year afterwards, while our zealous Bro. A. V. Dimick was there, a large number of the young were brought in. Bro. Shaw afforded me encouragement to persevere in efforts even where the prospect is very dark, by informing me, that in Cape Breton he met with a pious man who told him, that my labors, (in a place where they appeared to me wholly unavailing,) had been the means of his conversion.

After returning to Amherst, and laboring some months in my stated field, in January, 1841, I performed a missionary tour in Parrsborough; and baptized two young men at Advocate Harbor. The two persons first baptized by me—in August, 1817—resided here, had happily persevered in the ways of piety, and might well be regarded as 'mothers in Israel.' To meet with such aged and worthy disciples is truly refreshing.

Having ascertained in my travels, and by correspondence, that in various parts of the country the affairs of the Christian Messenger were in an unfavorable state, that in some instances the papers were not regularly conveyed, subscribers did not receive near all the numbers, and declined to pay, (that some local agents were neglectful, &c., and feeling deeply interested in the sustaining of it, and the extension of its circulation, I communicated intelligence to the Editors; and, in compliance with their request, agreed to devote what time could be consistently spared from other duties to a travelling agency on its behalf. My first tour for this object was made to Salisbury, &c. in Westmoreland, and was commenced Feb. 10th: the next to Pugwash and adjacent places; and a third, in April, to Shepody—now Albert County. In the course of four weeks thus devoted, various irregularities in transmission were rectified, local agents were visited and assisted, a considerable amount of money was collected, and fifty new subscribers were obtained.

For the Christian Messenger.

"And the Prayer of faith shall save the sick." James vi. 15.

DEAR BROTHER,—

I seldom trouble you with an "Erratum," but an inaccuracy has occurred in my communication in your last, which I would like to correct. It reads that Mr. Fielden when his wife was enabled to pray for him with such earnestness and success "was in the agonies of death." It should be, and so I think I wrote it, "apparently in the agonies of death." To my own mind the difference is very slight. Almighty God could have raised him from the one condition just as easily as from the other. But I have no wish to state a case any more strongly than the facts warrant.

I remember two cases in my own experience, when I was enabled to pray "in faith" and unconditionally, for the recovery of the sick, and they recovered. Somewhere about thirty years ago, Elder Wm. Chipman took me with him to see an afflicted family, residing in his neighborhood. An only child, a little girl, an infant, had been sick for a week, and was given up to die. We found the heart-stricken mother sitting by the cradle, resigned, subdued, and sweetly singing, "Not my will but thine be done." "I have often prayed," said she, "that if there

*Yes, you did write "apparently;" but our compositor omitted the word, and it was not discovered in reading the proof, which we regret.

When manuscript is difficult to read, and many words have to be guessed at, it is not surprising that a mistake is occasionally made by the printer. It should be borne in mind that words should be composed of distinctly formed letters. Instead of this being done we have continually to be guided by what we judge a word to be from its connection with other words, rather than by its own characters. Such imperfect manuscript of course occupies much more of the valuable time of the compositor than when the writing is in a fair plain hand.

We hope that the present communication is given correctly as Bro. Rand intended. We try to do the best we can under the circumstances.

were any idols in my heart the Lord would take them away. But when he laid his hand upon my babe, I found it a hard struggle to give her up. But to day I have been enabled to resign her into his hands." The controversy was over. "She could give up her child; her only child—" even Isaac whom thou lovest!" Brother Chipman asked me to pray. And could must have been the heart, and weak indeed the faith that could not have prayed in such a room as that. I did pray. I caught a glimpse of the banner that still floats upon Mount Moriah, with "Jehovah Jireh" emblazoned upon it. I remembered that when Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son, when the crisis was past, when there was no longer any room for doubt, it was enough; the design of the trial was accomplished. "And why not now in the case of this thy child?" I rose from my knees with the firm persuasion that the babe would live. And it did live. Both mother and child are still living. I called lately on the mother, Mrs. E. H., of Western Cornwallis, and asked her if she remembered the event. She informed me that she remembered it well, that the child still lived, was a professor of religion, and the mother of several children.

The other case, had reference to my own children. Our eldest had died with putrid sore throat. I was from home and knew nothing of it, until after he was dead and buried. We had two left, and both, with the mother took the disease, and were brought to death's door. The mother was recovering, but the children were not out of danger. And a strange unnatural—supernatural, feeling came over me one day, when, heedless of all bystanders I fell upon my knees, and in an agony of wrestling, poured on my soul before God, for the recovery from sickness, and for the eternal salvation of my children. The latter was in my mind at the time infinitely more important than the former. But I pleaded with indescribable earnestness for both. A dark cloud covered the sun at the time, and a shower of rain was pouring down without. The room seemed dark within, and the storm without seemed in strange harmony with the tempest of my soul within. Suddenly the storm ceased. The sun shone out, and filled the room with light. And at the same moment the storm within was hushed, and my soul was filled with light and peace, and joy. I had gotten the victory. My children would live, and would be saved. That was nearly 25 years ago. The children immediately recovered, and still live.

Yours truly,
S. T. RAND.

For the Christian Messenger.

The late Rev. W. Burton.

Dear Brother,—

Recent papers inform us of the removal of our brother Burton, and contain comments on his career and character. I have known him since my first introduction into these Provinces, in the year 1852; at one time somewhat intimately. In my work on father Harris Harding,—your readers, will pardon me for quoting from myself,—I have thus spoken of him, and of his relations to the church at Yarmouth:—

"We have now to contemplate Mr. Harding in a new relation. The church under his care had grown into a large, unwieldy body. Its members were scattered over a wide extent of country. Its pastor, though he held on his way with unabated vigour, bordered upon his seventieth year. Under these circumstances it seemed desirable to introduce additional ministerial labour into the field which he had hitherto cultivated alone. Various efforts were made for the accomplishment of this object; which resulted, in the summer of 1850, in the settlement of the Rev. William Burton, previously pastor of the Baptist church at Parrsborough, N. S., as co-pastor with Mr. Harding. This relation was maintained until the spring of 1853; at which time the union between Mr. Burton and the church at Yarmouth, prolonged through a period of twenty-three years, came to a close. That union had been highly profitable and prosperous. The fervid zeal of the senior pastor had wrought well in combination with the pulpit talent and tempered judgment of the junior. In the summer of the year 1852, the year before Mr. Burton's resignation, the members of the church were reported to their Association as numbering not far from seven hundred. Mr. Burton held a high place in the Christian regards of those among whom he had so long ministered. In 'that day' it will be seen that his labours at Yarmouth were 'not in vain in the Lord.' Moreover Mr. Burton strove, and with considerable success, to bring his Yarmouth brethren into a sympathy, closer than had previously existed, with the benevolent enterprises of these latter days;—a sympathy not yet exhausted, and which, it may well be hoped, will continue to yield its fruits, and that in an increasing measure, down to distant years. His relations with Mr. Harding were, for the most

part, harmonious. Where the one had 'planted,' the other 'watered;' and God gave the increase.' Long will the memory of this copastorate be precious at Yarmouth, and throughout Western Nova Scotia."

Brother Burton had but small opportunity for mental cultivation in his early days. He felt his deficiencies, and, on entering the ministry, made praiseworthy efforts, and not wholly vain ones, for self-improvement. In spite of these deficiencies he attained to much eminence as a preacher. A commanding person, an earnest manner, and clear, tremulous, thrilling kind of voice, were among his natural endowments as a public speaker. Moreover he had marked reflective faculties. He could not satisfy himself with commonplace superficialities. He would explore the recesses of the subjects with which he had to deal, and strive to bring to light their hidden riches. Having done so, he would turn over the treasures he had discovered, and enlarge, with great fervour and force, upon their excellencies and uses. Brother Hall has spoken of him as having a mind resembling in some respects that of Chalmers. This remark recalled to me a sermon which I heard him preach at Londonderry, at an Association, in the year 1861, on the text in Isa. lxxvi. 2. He beat out the ground supplied by this passage admirably, and well brought out its meaning and its aspects. I never listened to him with greater satisfaction than on this occasion. No doubt, as has often been said, he would have taken very high rank as a preacher, if he had only been favoured with a thorough training in early life; and as it is, he will long be remembered for his great pulpit power, and for certain occasional manifestations of that power. Religion did for him, in his sphere, what it did for John Bunyan, and what it has done for many besides, in their spheres. It raised him out of obscurity; it gave him a conspicuous standing; it brought to light talents which would scarcely have attracted notice had he remained in the service of sin; and it now throws a lustre around his memory, whose brightness shall long linger over the spot in which his "sun has gone down."

This, however, is not the best that is to be said of our departed brother. He was a monument of rich redeeming grace. His affections were set "on things above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God." This gave him consecration as well as elevation. He was beset by earthly cares, yet heavenly interests absorbed his noblest, warmest thoughts. He fell into his mistakes; but his heart was whole towards his Lord. With all his soul he loved the salvation of Christ, and delighted to spend, and be spent in making it known; while He for whom he wrought blessed his labours. He was largely privileged to build where others had laid the foundation; while there were those too who had reason to own him as their father in the Gospel. That Gospel was his own staff and stay while passing through the swellings of Jordan. And where is he now? Doubtless with his Lord. Yet even that is not all. He has rejoined the good, the venerable, and the great whom he knew below, and with whom he served as a son with his elders. And many greet him in that upper world, who hung upon his teachings, and were profited by his ministrations while yet he toiled in the earthly vineyard. And to their society is added the goodly fellowship of all the saints and angels who dwell and serve in the presence of God and the Lamb. Be it ours who are spared here yet a little longer to follow him so far as he followed Christ, and then to be associated with him in the purity and bliss to which he has now attained.

Your fellow labourer,

J. DAVIS.

Charlottetown, P. E. I., May 29th, 1867.

Missionary Intelligence.

Siam.

CHINESE MISSION OF BANGKOK.

Letter from Dr. Dean.—Bangkok.—Yesterday was a good day for the Chinese Mission here. Three Chinese of promise were baptized and added to the church. They were all men in the prime of life, and afforded us hope of usefulness. One, a man about forty years old, eighteen years a resident of Bangkok, has a family of six children, who, with the mother, all speak Chinese, except the youngest, now not a year old. The eldest, twins, a son and daughter, and all the family, discover marks of mind, which only need to be exhorted from the rubbish of paganism and transformed by the gospel to make them fit gems for the Redeemer's diadem.

GERMANY.

Letter from Mr. Lehmann.—Baptism has been regularly administered by my son, who continues to be to me a great help and blessing. We all thank God that he was spared to us,