

Correspondence.

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

BY REV. CHARLES TUPPER, D. D.

CHAPTER XV.

PASTORATE IN AYLESFORD AND WILMOT.

(No. 4.)

In the closing part of the year 1852, in addition to my direct ministerial labors, I aided in forming and sustaining Total Abstinence Societies in several sections of my field.— Though we had a Division of Sons of Temperance to which I belonged, and endeavored to assist, yet it appeared to me, as it still does, highly desirable to have Total Abstinence Societies established, which would embrace persons of both sexes, and of all ages, and be conducted without expense. So important did the cause of Temperance ever seem in my view, that it was my earnest desire to see it promoted by all the various organizations which might further it.

In October I went to Halifax to unite with other Governors of Acadia College, for the purpose of making such arrangements as might tend to promote the success of that valuable Institution, especially by giving satisfaction to all our people in these Provinces, and combining their energies for its support. Through the Divine blessing the prospect of a favorable issue was encouraging.

In the month of November, bad as the state of the roads then was, Bro. William Chipman and I performed an agency tour in Annapolis County, to assist in securing the contemplated Endowment Fund for the permanent support of our College. In the latter part of my tour, extending to Clements and Hillsburgh, Bro. James Park accompanied me. Some brethren responded to the call readily; but in general the measure of our success was small. The interviews, however, enjoyed with the valued and beloved Brethren who accompanied me, and who have subsequently entered their rest, were highly gratifying and cheering in the midst of the trials and discouragements at times endured.

From *Memoranda* kept it appears that in the last 7 months of the year I travelled 2500 miles, and, notwithstanding my numerous and long journeys abroad, during that space of time in my own field of labor, I made 450 ministerial visits to families. In the course of the year I preached 121 sermons, attended 32 conferences, delivered 17 lectures on Temperance, and attended 60 other meetings for religious or benevolent purposes.

In the former part of the year 1853, within the space of three months and four days, three of our Baptist Ministers in this Province were removed by death. As they were intimate and beloved friends of mine, some brief reminiscences of them may not be out of place here.

Rev. Richard E. Burpe died, of consumption, February 26th, in Jacksonville, Florida, whither he had gone for the benefit of his health. He was an amiable and decidedly pious man, held in high esteem by all who knew him. His early labors in Charlotte County, N. B., were attended with saving efficacy. In the time of my residence in Fredericton, a pious woman who was received into the Church there by letter, stated that she was one of those brought into the fold of Christ in a gracious work under the ministry of Bro. Burpe. The happy fruits of his faithful labors in Burmah were beginning to appear when the fatal disease which terminated his life compelled him to return to America. His decease did indeed take place among strangers, where none of his Baptist Brethren could visit him; but very kind attentions were paid to him; and he was affectionately visited by two Methodist Ministers, who also readily performed the funeral services. His gracious Master sustained him to the last.

Rev. David Harris, of Cornwallis, was removed by apoplexy, April 15th, at the age of 68 years. Unquestionably he was, through grace, prepared for this sudden exit. Though not an educated man, nor one of brilliant talents, and consequently not well qualified to labor continuously, as a Pastor, yet his ardent piety, correct zeal, and deep concern for the salvation of souls, rendered him a very successful domestic Missionary. His indefatigable labors in the eastern parts of Nova Scotia, among the destitute, were signally blessed.

Rev. James Park, who was at the time Pastor of the Baptist Church of Nictaux, died there, of consumption, on the 2nd day of June. He, too, was a man of sterling piety. His ministerial course was short, but not destitute of

happy effects. His visits to the eastern parts of Cumberland, as well as other places, were evidently attended with success; and they endeared him to many. During the brief period of his pastorate in Nictaux, adjoining my field, his diligence in looking after the welfare of the flock, seeking to reclaim backsliders, and striving to win souls to Christ, caused me and many others to esteem him very highly. During his illness I visited him repeatedly, and rejoiced to see him divinely sustained. In accordance with his request, I preached at his burial from the text chosen by him, viz. 2 Tim. ii. 19. The concourse of solemn attendants was very great.

At our Association, held at Westport, June 11th, &c., it was painful and alarming to perceive, that there were no reports of revivals in any of our Churches.

I also attended the Central Association, which met in Halifax, June 25th, and was chosen Moderator. When some of my Brethren declined to preach, assigning indisposition as their excuse, I remarked that probably none had a more valid excuse; but I could not bear to refuse. If quite unable to preach at the time appointed, my place must be supplied by another. The next day serious illness compelled me to lie in bed, and seek medical aid. Dr. Cramp kindly supplied my lack of service. Through Divine goodness my health was so far improved by Monday, at 10 A. M., that it was in my power, though quite feeble, to attend to the duties which devolve upon me. Our Session was a pleasant one; but the letters revealed a lamentably low state of religion in the Churches. In the two—one belonging to the Western and one to the Central Association—under my care, some had been added by letter, but only two to each by baptism.

For the Christian Messenger.

Ottawa Correspondence.

No. 1.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Perhaps the readers of newspapers in the seaside Provinces, who have not had, and who may never have an opportunity of witnessing the debates of the Canadian House of Commons, will feel sufficiently interested in the following sketches to consider them worth perusal.

The room occupied by the Commons of Canada is an oblong rectangular square, the Speaker's chair being situate midway on one of the longer sides, and directly opposite a front entrance. On the other the members sit upon their right and left, facing each other, an open space partly occupied by the Clerk's table between. Below this, and in front of the Speaker, at the opposite side of the room, or nearly so,—there being a little space between it and the main entrance—is the Bar of the House. The seats of Members rise gradually from the open space where the Clerk's table is, back to the entrance end of the room, each row of seats being parallel, and a single step higher than that in front. The seats are plain arm chairs cushioned, with a double desk before them, two chairs and two members to each desk, with passages between the desks, by which members enter to occupy their respective places. The Speaker's chair is reached from the ground floor by a flight of three steps, is curtained and hung with dark blue drapery, and tastefully but plainly enough upholstered.

Galleries run all round the room, these are apportioned off for various purposes. Directly above the Speaker, is the Reporters' Gallery; directly opposite, the Speakers and Senators Galleries, privileged places only to be secured by tickets.

Such is the Chamber where Her Majesty's faithful and loyal Commons congregate. On the Speaker's right are the Treasury benches, allotted to the ministers of the Crown, occupied at present in the following order:—First sits the Minister of Finance, the Hon. John Rose; next, upon his right, the Premier, Sir John A. McDonald; further down, and upon his right, the Hon. Mr. Cartier, the Minister of Militia; next to him the Hon. Mr. Tilley, Minister of Customs, and still further down the Hon. Mr. Howland, Minister of Inland Revenue. Behind Sir John and Mr. Cartier, sit the Hon. Mr. Langevin, Secretary of State, and the Hon. William McDougall, Minister of Works. There are seven ministers of the thirteen occupying Bureaus—two of which are at present vacant—and who hold seats in the Commons. On Mr. Howland's right, and on the front row, sits Hon. Mr. Chauveau, Premier of Quebec, and on his right at the same desk, Hon. Mr. Dunkin, also a Quebec Minister; next in order and still upon his right sits Hon. T. D. McGee with the

Hon. Mr. Galt as his desk companion. Two or three more couples occupy desks on this front row, on the ministerial side, with the Hon. Mr. Fisher at the extreme end nearest the Bar.

On the Speaker's left upon the opposition benches, Hon. Sanfield McDonald, Premier of Ontario, occupies the first seat; next, and upon his left, sits Hon. Mr. Dorion; corresponding to the position opposite of, and facing the Premier. Then comes Hon. Mr. Daton, with Hon. Mr. Huntingdon, and the Hon. Mr. McKenzie associated at the same desk. Left of McKenzie sits Hon. S. Campbell of Nova Scotia, and at the same desk upon his left sit Hon. Mr. Howe, at the previous part of the Session. Hon. Mr. McLellan, I observe, occupies his seat occasionally in his absence, and other gentlemen not so widely known, hold seats still farther down, filling up the front row.

Behind Mr. Dorion and his colleagues, on the next row, sit Hon. Messrs. Anglin and Smith, of New Brunswick, and the Hon. Mr. Blake of Ontario, a leading gentleman in opposition in the Local Parliament of that Province and others. For the most part the supporters of Government sit on the same side of the House as Ministers, and vice versa, but this does not seem to be unexceptionably the case. Most of the New Brunswick members sit upon the Speaker's right, although, with one or two exceptions, they appear to be voting pretty steadily with the opposition; whilst all the Nova Scotians present, with the exception of Hon. Mr. McKeagney, sit upon the Speaker's left, and with the exception of S. Campbell, vote accordingly.

Two or three Clerks sit at the table. The first Clerk directly in front with his back towards the Speaker. The Speaker reads all motions which he put to the House in English, and they are then handed to the Clerk, who reads them in French.

Half a dozen pages, boys from ten to fifteen years of age, are in constant attendance flitting about, and doing errands for the Speaker, the Clerks, or members continually, and upon divisions when names are taken, their services, I noticed, were put in requisition to give the names of members to the Assistant Clerk, who called over, rising in their places, as the Senior Clerk recorded them in alphabetical lists, ready prepared—divisions being taken, when names are called for, by the Speaker calling upon the ayes to rise first, and subsequently the nays. Taking a division therefore occupies a quarter of an hour nearly, where names are required.

The forms of proceeding adopted in the Commons, and the Senate as well, are much nearer the English patterns than those in use in the Maritime Provinces. They are more tedious, but withal very effective. Notice of motions are printed and placed on the minutes among the orders of the day, and prevents any surprise, and this practice is adhered to rigidly. Thus far the proceedings in the Commons have progressed with the utmost dignity and decorum. And it is fitting and proper to say that whatever reputation other Legislatures of Canada as a Province may have earned, there would seem to be nothing to be desired to entitle the Parliament of the Dominion to be ranked as unexceptionable in *morale* and alike worthy of the Constituencies, and the varied interests represented.

SPECTATOR.

Ottawa, 4th April, 1868.

[Little did the writer of the above imagine that Hon. Mr. McGee was so soon to meet a violent death, on that Hon. Mr. Wier would be the next taken from the scene which he was describing with so much minuteness.—Ed. C. M.]

For the Christian Messenger.

Truth made plain;

MATT. II.

The following are specimens of passages as they are found in the Revised New Testament, published by the American Bible Union.

Matt. ii. 1. "And Jesus having been born * * * there came wise men;" for, "now when Jesus was born." The wise men came, not at the precise time "when Jesus was born," but after he "had been born."

Ver. 2. "We saw his star in the east, and came to do him homage;" for "we have seen," "are come to worship him." While at their home "in the east," they "saw his star;" and they "came" from that region to Jerusalem to find him, and "do him homage" as the prospective "King of the Jews."

Ver. 4. "And having assembled all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ should be born;" for "when he had gathered," "he demanded of them where Christ." "Having as-

sembled," the Jewish priests and scribes, Herod did not authoritatively "demand," but rather inquired of them;" as if desiring to know for some worthy reason. Nor did he wish to find some male infant without design named "Christ," but that particular one who was to be "the Christ," the Messiah of the Jews.

Ver. 7. "Then Herod, having secretly called the wise men, inquired of them exactly the time of the appearing of the star;" for "when he had privately called," "diligently what time the star appeared." He did not care at "what time the star appeared." He did not care at "what time the star" might now be seen; but he "inquired exactly the time of its first 'appearing,'" that he might thus learn the age of the child. See ver. 16.

Ver. 8. "Go and inquire strictly concerning the child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I also may come and do him homage;" instead of "search diligently for," "come and worship him also." Herod did not wish a "search" to be made, suspicion aroused, and the child concealed. Nor did he say "worship him also;" but, "I also may come and do him homage."

Ver. 10, 11. "And seeing the star, they rejoiced;" "coming into the house, they saw the child;" "did homage to him; and opening their treasure, they presented to him gifts," affording a clear, concise, and direct narrative of a succession of acts, instead of "when they were come," "when they had opened."

Ver. 12. "And being warned by God in a dream, not to return to Herod, they departed into their own country by another way;" for "warned of God," "that they should not return," "country another way." Notice the clearness and brevity: "warned by God," "not to return," "by another way."

Ver. 13. "An angel of the Lord appears to Joseph," for "the angel." Matthew does not point out some particular angel, but simply says, "an angel." See ch. i., 20; ii., 13, 19. "Herod is about to seek the child to destroy him;" showing the urgency of the case, as admitting no delay, instead of the less definite "will seek."

Ver. 14. "And he arose and took the child and his mother by night and departed into Egypt," showing immediate compliance with the command in ver. 13; instead of "When he arose, he took."

Ver. 15. "Spoken by the Lord through the prophet;" for "of the Lord by." "Spoken of the Lord" would now be understood, "concerning the Lord." "Out of Egypt I called my son;" as in Hosea xi., referring primarily to God's calling the Israelites out of their Egyptian bondage; instead of "have I called."

Ver. 16. "Mocked by the wise men, was exceedingly enraged," "slew all the male children," "in all its borders," "had exactly learned from the wise men;" for "mocked of," "exceeding wrath," "all the children," "all the coasts thereof"—Bethlehem being an inland town, and not having a "coast" as the word is now used, "had diligently inquired" Herod did not "slay all the children," but only "all the male children;" so as to be sure, as he thought of destroying "the Christ!"

The above are examples of the faithful rendering of the Greek text in the Revised New Testament, and of the light shed on less than one chapter! Reader, will not you procure the book, and study it, and reap for yourself the golden harvest of truth?

AQUEDUS.

Religious Intelligence.

NEW YORK.—Fulton Street Daily Meeting.—This remarkable meeting holds on its way with unusual spirit and power. Its meetings are very crowded, and the specialty of this season is the large number of drunken men who are reformed and converted. Almost every day thanksgivings are called for in view of the deliverance of intemperate men in answer to prayer. There is a crispness in this meeting that is very delightful. Intelligence is daily received from the churches in all parts of the land. Rich, touching, and tender incidents are related. Strangers are sure to drop in while they are in the city, and these new faces and new voices give a charm to the exercises that makes every meeting fresh and entertaining.

THE METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.—This body, which holds its session once in four years, meets at Chicago in May next. The Conference is composed of representatives from the Annual Conferences, one member being elected from every thirty-five ministers. If there is a fraction over thirty-five, that secures an additional delegate. In the Territories and Conferences that have less than thirty-five members, one delegate is allowed. All the officers of the denomination are elected by the General Conference, and hold their offices four years. The Editors, Book Agents, Secretaries, &c., are liable to be turned out. Besides the discussion of sensational and exciting topics, the removal of men from office creates quite a stir at the Conference.

THE WESLEYANS AND THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.—Wesley died in the Church of England. He wished his followers to hold communion with the Mother Church. Charles was bitterly opposed to the usurpation of Episcopal powers by his brother John, in ordaining Dr. Coke as Bishop. On this Charles wrote this satire:

"So easily are Bishops made
By man or woman's whim;
Wesley his hands on Coke hath laid,
But who laid hands on him?"