

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

APPENDIX, No. 2.

In the year 1870, during the Week of Prayer I visited most of the sections of the Church under my pastoral care, laboring on the days and evenings, to aid my brethren in the profitable religious exercises appropriate to that season.

Through the winter the ordinary course of my labors, public and private, was continued. The state of religion, however, was generally low. Toward spring some extra meetings were held on Stronach Mountain: but the extremely bad state of the roads at first caused delay in commencing them, and subsequently prevented general attendance. My excessive labors, and exposure to violent storms, were attended with some temporary illness. Obviously we ought to do all in our power for the furtherance of the interests of true godliness; but it is evidently incumbent on us to acquiesce quietly in the inscrutable allotments of infinite Wisdom.

In the course of the winter and spring I wrote some communications for the *Christian Messenger*, and a few, especially with reference to the administration of the Lord's Supper, for the *Canadian Baptist*.

As changes had rendered some revisions necessary, I copied anew my list of subscribers of the *Messenger*—60 in number—and also the names of the members of the Church under my care, who exceeded 500. While these were passing in review, some of them produced pleasing sensations of mind, and others, in cases of less decisive piety, excited fear and grief.

After spending two Sabbaths with brethren and friends in Newport, it was my privilege to attend our Central Association in Halifax, June 24th, &c., and the Eastern in Amherst, which commenced July 2nd. These Sessions were harmonious and pleasant. To me it was peculiarly delightful to perceive, that in Cumberland, which was for many years the principal field of my labors, there had of late been, in several parts of it, extensive revivals. When I first visited the County, in July, 1816, it contained only one Baptist Church—in Amherst—consisting of 16 members; in July, 1870, the returns shew 16 Churches, with a membership of 1,357; of whom 248 appear to have been added by baptism in the year preceeding this Association. Truly it may well be said, "What hath God wrought."

On my way to the Convention in Fredericton, I attended the Ministers' Institute in St. John. It was so late before Mrs. Tupper and I reached the place where we were kindly entertained in the City, that I could not attend the first meeting. The arrangements, made known to me some time afterwards, did not appear to me as good as those adopted at our Institute in Wolfville, at the close of the preceeding year.—In that any member who chose to offer a few remarks on the subject of a Lecture, was at liberty to do so; but in this others besides the Lecturer were only permitted to propose questions to him. But some questions which may be advantageously discussed in private, or in a select company of established believers, are hardly suitable to be prepared before a promiscuous assembly such as attended the Lectures in St. John. Individuals are liable to imagine—undoubtedly some did—that the querist disbelieved the sentiment concerning which he made inquiry. When a skeptic, or advocate of error, puts a puzzling question to an evangelical believer, it may, in many cases, be met, and answered in effect, by proposing to him one more difficult to answer: but this cannot be consistently done when the querist is professedly a believer in evangelical doctrine. Moreover, a Lecture prepared some years before, may be very good, and yet the writer of it not be always in readiness to answer immediately all the questions that may be proposed concerning the subject of it. When such questions are asked in the presence of numerous assemblies, and are not answered satisfactorily, or not at all, as was the case in some instances, the proposing of them is likely to do harm. (2 Tim. ii. 23.)

I may be regarded by some as one of the old school; but I will frankly confess, with reference to the public meetings on the Lord's day, that it is not as satisfactory to me to hear old manuscripts read, as it is to hear warm and pathetic sermons preached. It seems incumbent on me, however, to acknowledge an error committed by myself—not the first of the kind. It was that of

undertaking to do too much. A deep interest in the Mission of sister Norris, induced me to comply with her request to take the charge of moneys that might be sent to the Convention for her support.—For various reasons it was out of my power to finish writing the Report of the Foreign Mission Board before my arrival in Fredericton. This was delayed till the afternoon of Saturday, August 20th. It was indispensable for me to attend all the meetings of the Board, as also those of the Convention.—When, in addition to these labors, I had to receive numerous sums of money, and to note minutely from what Society each came, the labor was too exhaustive. Finally, the passing of a Resolution which I could not fail to know, must greatly retard and diminish our efforts in the Foreign Mission cause—a cause that had long lain peculiarly near my heart—I was overwhelmed: and a violent pain in my side compelled me to retire to bed. Thus ended my laborious and sorrowful attendance at the Convention.

Our Western Association, which was held in Clementsvale, commencing Sept. 24th, was much more pleasant to me. My view with reference to our Foreign Mission was approved. The Session was, in general quite harmonious; and the devotional exercises spirited and earnest.

My ministerial labors in 1870 may be summed up as follows:—I travelled, including 520 miles by water and by rail, about 2,873 miles, preached 127 sermons, attended 42 conferences, and 107 other meetings, in which I almost invariably took an active part—together 276—and made 587 family visits. In these, (which, however disparagingly some may speak of them, have long appeared to me to constitute a very important part of ministerial duty,) I always prayed with so many of each family as could be called, and, with very few unavoidable exceptions, read a portion of Scripture, and usually offered upon it some expository and practical remarks.

The results of these imperfect labors, must, of course, be left to Him who alone can "give the increase." The inspired declaration, however, "Ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord," is highly consolatory and encouraging.

C. TUPPER.

Tremont, Aylesford, Feb. 3, 1871.

PREACHING THE GOSPEL.

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace." Isa. lii. 7.

They who have been called, set apart, to preach the gospel—"bring good tidings"—have truly a holy calling. They are chosen vessels of mercy to proclaim salvation, through the atoning merits of a crucified Saviour, to dying men. God, in the fullness of time, according to the revealed testimony of the Prophets aforetime, sent His only begotten Son into the world to redeem Adam's race from a ruinous condition, by reason of sin, "that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." Glorious news! What Sovereign mercy! How such should stir up the deepest emotions of man to fervent praise! "Have everlasting life!" This terse phrase implies more than theology explains or the finite mind is any wise able to comprehend. Yet, to proclaim such tidings, impress them upon the minds of men, together with the whole counsel of God, is the sacred duty and calling of the minister. How he should magnify his calling, and how thankful he should feel that his mission here in life is to perform so trustworthy a duty to his heavenly Master! St. Paul says: "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry." Again: "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God." 2 Cor. iii. 5.

A minister should not so lightly esteem his calling as to relinquish it, or suffer any serious interruption in the discharge of his duties for the sake of worldly honors and secular pursuits, however remunerative.—That such is sometimes the case is too evident, but then it ought not to be so.—Said a young minister, not long since, to his Church, whose salary was \$600 a year:—"Brethren, I have been endeavoring faithfully to serve you; I think you are all pleased with me; but you must increase my salary; six hundred dollars a year is not sufficient to support my family (wife and two small children). I must have more. Without an increase of salary I must quit the churches and go into secular business that will pay me better, and where I can get a good salary, but I would rather serve the churches." The Brother spoke undevotedly. True, to some minds his

words might have some plausible reason; but then it should be remembered that the ministry is too sacred a calling to be relinquished for any consideration. If six hundred dollars, a very moderate sum, be not sufficient for the support of his family a year, his church not able to give him more, let him go to work with his own hands a portion of his time, as did the Apostle, in the open air, say upon a plot of suitable ground; this would be a source of income, besides it would strengthen his lungs, make better his digestion, and give a relish for study. Only let him not talk about quitting the churches or ministry.—It recoils with too much disregard for that which is sacred. "No man having put his hand to the plough and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Luke ix. 62.

From the consideration that handsome salaries are often paid ministers, who distinguish themselves for their ability, piety, and usefulness, I am often made to fear that some—perhaps, not a few in the breadth of our land—thrust themselves into the ministry more for love of the loaves and fishes than the Cross of Christ. How else could it be when we see so many wishing or talking about laying aside their clerical robes for one slight pretext and another?

A messenger, having good news applicable to men in all pursuits of life, always loves to declare it and proclaim it abroad in the land, and is exceedingly happy in the act of being instrumental to impart to others the source of his joy and happiness.—He feels compensated even by making it known. Likewise it is so with God's messengers—His ministers who proclaim the glorious tidings of salvation through Jesus. The minister, who rightly feels at heart his particular calling, will preach; yes, he will preach though, for the act, his poor body be chained and burned at the stake for the precious soul that is within him is so large and filled with heavenly love, that when disengaged from its earthly coil, nothing less than heaven can contain it. He will "publish" the gospel of Christ. It is his meat and his drink.

Eloquence and affluence may lend great advantages, but penury is seldom an insuperable barrier. The poor man with a stammering tongue, coarsely clad, his heart warmed with heavenly zeal, is often made instrumental in giving gospel truths more effect and power. Like pious old Latimer, with his Testament at one end of his leathern girdle and spectacles at the other, he trudges afoot, and, if necessary, preaches the gospel of Christ from the hollow of a tree.

While I think it clearly evident a minister should from no other motives than purely the love of Christ, preach the glorious tidings of the gospel, and not relinquish his heavenly calling for any consideration the world affords, honors, wealth, or position, it is a duty equally evident that the gospel should be supported. This should be done by offerings made at stated times, as a general rule. God has not assigned to man any particular calling in life without the means employed for his support. "Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel." It is written, "Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn."

PHILIP L. HAMPTON.

Stone Mountain, Georgia, U. S.

Feb. 5, 1871.

For the Christian Messenger.

IN MEMORIAM.

MR. BENJAMIN RAYMOND,

third son of the late Jonathan Raymond, died at Beaver River on Dec. 29th, aged 63 years. Brother Raymond was converted when a boy ten years of age. He repaired to the silent grove, resolving to find mercy or die seeking for it. Like other true penitents, his soul was soon filled with the love of God. He returned to his friends, embraced his christian parents, declaring what God had done for his soul. It was but a short time until he sought a home in the Church of God, of which he remained a worthy member until he was removed to join the church triumphant. He was diligent in business in which he was generally prosperous. God gave him largeness of heart which enabled him cheerfully to respond to the calls made in behalf of numerous benevolent institutions. He left \$1000 for the benefit of the church of which he had been so long a member. His sickness was short but very severe. I enjoyed great satisfaction in my last conversation with our dear brother about the love of Christ. That love which enabled him to resign all, and say "Thy will be done." He left a

companion, four sons and two daughters, with a large circle of relatives and friends to mourn his removal. May God sanctify the bereavement to the good of all. The funeral was attended by the writer, assisted by Brother Downey of the Free Baptist Church, and Brother J. H. Saunders.—*Con. by Rev. A. Cogswell.*

DEACON JACOB TROOP,

was born in Granville, Annapolis County, 16th of March 1791, and remained under the parental roof until March 1824, when he united in the marriage covenant with Margaret Ann, third daughter of Deacon F. Miller. It is reasonably supposed that Brother Troop had convictions of the necessity of the new birth and of personal piety, as he had the moral and religious training of pious parents from a child, and subsequently a pious wife, who no doubt felt great concern for him and the little ones coming up round her without the prayers of the Lord to call him by his grace, and to reveal his son in him; and to make him a useful member in his church. Brother Troop united with the first Baptist Church at Hillsburgh, and was soon after chosen to fill the office of Deacon, where he made himself eminently useful by his constant devotion and fervent zeal in the cause of God.

MRS. SARAH HIGGINS,

widow of the late John Higgins, and sister of the late Rev. John Whidden of Antigonish, died at Middle Musquodobit, Feb. 3rd, in the 89th year of her age. After three years of intense suffering she passed from earth to heaven, trusting alone in Christ.

MRS. THOS. LINDSAY,

calmly fell asleep in Jesus on Monday, Sept. 25th, 1870. Elizabeth, the beloved wife of Thomas Lindsay, of Onalow, aged thirty-nine. Sister L. was for a number of years before her decease a highly valued and consistent member of the Baptist Church. Her last sufferings were intense, but borne with christian resignation to the Divine will. There were seasons when life and the living for others would cause the sufferer to desire "long years." Yet as a Saviour shone into her heart with the rays of Heavenly love, she was enabled to say, "Thy will be done." The community in which she resided has lost a valued member—the poor a true friend. A sorrowing husband and three children mourn the loss of one so dear. Numerous friends and relatives mingle their tears with the bereaved. At her burial a solemn discourse was delivered by Rev. D. W. C. Dimock. The earthly remains of our sister sleep in the quiet church yard, her labors of love, her trials and sufferings all are past.

"Would we to sin and pain
Call back her soul again?"

May God comfort and sustain the mourners, and prepare them to meet the loved one beyond the dark valley, in the Paradise of God.—*Com.*

Parliamentary.

OPENING OF THE DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

The fourth session of the first Dominion Parliament was opened at Ottawa on Wednesday last with the usual ceremonies.—About eighty members of the House of Commons were present. Eight new members had been elected during the recess.—Mr. Chipman the new member for Kings, N. S., was present and took his seat. Mr. Pearson had not arrived.

His Excellency the Governor General, Lord Lisgar arrived at the Senate Chamber at 3 o'clock, and after summoning the Commons, read to the two Houses the following SPEECH.

Hon. Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I have much satisfaction in meeting you at this usual and most convenient season of the year, and under the present auspicious circumstances of the country.

I was sanguine enough to express at the close of the last session that no further attempts would be made to disturb our frontier, but was doomed to early disappointment. The Session had scarcely closed when lawless hands assembled within the United States in great numbers, and renewed the menace of invasion.

They ventured to cross the border at two points, but were met and repelled so completely and repulsed so humilatingly that the invader lost heart and hope; threw away quantities of arms, and fell back to encumber the villages in their rear with their starving demoralized masses. Our Militia

rallied at the first call to arms with praiseworthy alacrity, and the spirit which pervaded the country swelled their numbers with volunteers from all quarters. The gallantry displayed, and the success achieved, have been duly recognized by the highest military authorities: and honored in gratifying terms by Her Most Gracious Majesty. In maintaining the Militia on active duty the Government incurred an outlay to a considerable amount beyond what was provided for by the vote of the last session.

The account of the entire expenditure for the defence of the frontier will be laid before you. I feel confident that you will pass a Bill to indemnify the Government.

2nd. Anticipations of success in regard to the Act passed for the Government of Manitoba and the North West territory, and to the military expedition which it was necessary to despatch, have been fortunately realized. The troops surmounted the difficulties of the long toilsome route with endurance and intelligence; and they encountered no armed opposition. On their arrival at Red River they were cordially welcomed by the inhabitants. The people of the new Province under the Constitution accorded to them last year, have assumed all the duties of self government; and every appearance warrants the hope that they are entering steadily on a career of peace and prosperity.

3rd. The Legislature of British Columbia has passed an address to Her Majesty praying for admission into the Union, on the terms and conditions therein stated. Papers on this important subject will be laid before you, and your earnest attention will be called to them. I hope you will think that the terms are so fair as to gratify you in passing a similar address, so that the boundaries of Canada may attain at an early day, from the shores of the Atlantic Ocean on the one side, to the shores of the Pacific on the other.

4th. Should such an address be adopted, it will be necessary for you to take steps to secure the early exploration and the survey of a route for an inter-oceanic railway, with a view to its construction, in accordance with the terms of the Union.

5th. The acquisition of the North West territories throws upon the Government and Parliament of the Dominion, the duty of promoting their speedy settlement by encouragement of emigration. This duty can be best discharged by a liberal land policy, and by opening up communication through our own country to Manitoba. The means proposed for accomplishing these purposes will be submitted for your consideration.

6th. Her Majesty's Government having decided upon referring the Fishery question, along with other questions pending between the two countries, to a joint commission to be named by Her Majesty's Government and the Government of the United States, in this Commission Canada will be represented.

This mode of dealing with various matters in the controversy will, I trust, lead to their adjustment. Canada urges no demands beyond those of which she is plainly entitled to by treaty and the law of nations. She has pushed no claim to an extreme assertion, and only sought to maintain the rights of her own people fairly and firmly, but in a friendly and considerate spirit, and with due respect to foreign powers and international obligations. The thanks of the country are due to the Admiral on the Station, and those under his command for the valuable and efficient aid which they rendered to our cruisers during the past season in maintaining order, and protecting the inshore fisheries from encroachment.

7th. The prospect of the adoption of an International Currency seems, at the present state of Europe to be so remote, that I recommend you to consider the propriety of assimilating the currency of the Dominion without delay.

8th. The extension to Manitoba of the Militia and the other laws of the Dominion, and their adaptation to the present circumstances of that young Province, will require your attention.

9th. The decennial Census will be taken on the 3rd day of April next, and it is believed that a more thorough and accurate system has been adopted than has hitherto been obtained. It may be necessary to amend the Act of last Session in some particulars.

10th. Among other measures, Bills will be presented to you relating to Parliamentary Elections, Weights and Measures, Insurance Companies, Savings Banks, and for the consolidation and amendment of the Inspection Laws.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I have given directions that the Public Accounts should be laid before you; and you will learn with satisfaction that the Revenue for the past year was in excess of that estimated; and that the prospects for the current year are so encouraging that notwithstanding the extensive public improvements which are contemplated, you will probably be able to diminish the taxation of the country. The Estimates for the ensuing year will be submitted to you, and I feel assured that you will be of opinion that the supplies which you will be asked to vote can be granted without inconvenience to the people.

Hon. Gentlemen of the Senate; and Gentlemen of the House of Commons:—

I lay these various and weighty matters before you in full confidence that they will engage your mature attention, and pray that the result of your deliberations may, with the Divine blessing, prove conducive in all to the advancement and happiness of the country.