

THE PILGRIMAGE OF SORROWFUL.

By ELIZABETH PATTEN HUNT.
Edited by Mrs. Hunt-Morgan.

CHAPTER IV.

Before Sorrowful went further on her journey, she had such comforting, encouraging, and friendly conversation with the Lord the Prince, that her soul was filled with joy and peace. He gave her a book written by Himself, in which were contained many precious promises, sweet declarations, and directions how to walk in the way, with whom to associate, and whom to shun.

It was on a beautiful morning, when the sun shone in all its splendor, enlivening, warming, and comforting all around with its invigorating beams—it was on a morning without clouds, that Sorrowful proceeded on her journey, accompanied by Grace and Everlasting-Love, on whom she leaned. She went forth in costly raiment, supplied by her Lord, and accompanied by His blessing.

The Black Prince saw her, and would fain have got her again into his power, but he knew that while she was walking on the Plains of Comfort, leaning on such companions, his attempts would be in vain; he gnashed his teeth, and turned away his eyes, for to him she appeared "terrible as an army with banners." (Sol song vi. 4) Throughout the country of Comfort, travelling was very pleasant. Here were no hills to climb, no roaring beasts of prey to fear, here no windy storm and tempest; and Sorrowful thought that all her travels would be equally pleasant with this fair beginning; she therefore began to sing:

"How happy, happy am I now,
How safe and truly blest!
The joy, the peace, the love I feel
Can never be expressed!

For all my sins are blotted out,
My guilt is washed away;
And He who has begun to bless,
Will keep me night and day.

Of Jesus' love I'll speak and think,
There's nought to me so dear;
His words I'll treasure in my heart,
They'll banish every tear.

He said: "I'll be thy Guard, thy Guide,
Thy everlasting Friend;
I always loved thee, and my love
Shall never, never end."

Through Trial thou wilt have to go,
But I'll be with thee there;
I'll help in every time of need,
Then cast on me thy care.

Sorrowful was not so long passing through this country, as many before her had been. Some have been years in traversing it, Sorrowful was only a few weeks. She came to many agreeable places of entertainment by the way, all of which were provided by her Lord, and as she was about to leave one of them, Experience, whom she had there met, said to her:

"I have no doubt but you will soon be in Trial; this place is not far from it, and thence you will have to pass through Temptation, where you will find travelling very different from any you have hitherto known. And how do you expect to go through these countries?"

Sorrowful. "What a question! Do you think that Grace and Everlasting-Love who have brought me thus far, will forsake me in difficulty? If the Prince had not designed that I should be conqueror over every foe, would He have shed His precious blood to rescue me from Justice? If the Lord Comforter had not intended my everlasting salvation, would He have sent Conviction to show me my lost condition? Would He ever have made known to me the unsatisfying nature of all in Pleasure? Would He have sent that storm to turn my feet from Atheism? Surely not. Would Everlasting Love have delivered me from Self-Destruction, when I was hastening to Everlasting Despair, had he not known me to be an object of the King's regard? O! no, no! For all this was done for me, when I hated my Lord; and now that he has given me a new heart—a heart to love Him far beyond any other—a heart to delight in His ways—will He now forsake me? No, never! He has said so Himself; I have the very words in the book he has given me:—'I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.' Nothing which I may encounter either in Trial or in Temptation, can cause me to forget His love, for I am confident of this very thing, that He who hath begun the good work in me will carry it on."

Experience. "I am also confident of the same thing, and hope that it is a confidence which you will never cast away. Go on

believing, trusting, rejoicing, and leaning on Grace and Everlasting-Love, thus no foe shall ever prevail over you, no, not for an hour. But allow one who has your welfare at heart to remind you of two sentences which are to be found in the book to which you have referred. These are: 'Without Me ye can do nothing'; and: 'Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall!'"

Sorrowful was not exactly pleased with the manner in which Experience spoke; and she answered rather hastily:

"My dear Lord has said 'Rejoice evermore; why then should I fear concerning the future? I am fully persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate me from the love of my Lord.'"

Experience. "I am also fully persuaded of the same thing. I have no doubt but that you will safely reach the Holy Land, and that you will dwell for ever with Him whom your soul loveth. O that you may be kept constantly depending on Grace and Everlasting-Love; for then will your peace flow as a river."

Sorrowful proceeded on her journey; but she had not gone far when she began to think of the money which her Lord had given her for her support on the road, and she withdrew her arms from Grace and Everlasting-Love, that she might take it out and count it. Having done this, she joyfully exclaimed;

"I have enough to carry me to the end of my journey; I shall know want no more, I have enough to supply my need, let that need be what it may."

While she was thus employed, Pride and Self-Confidence, who were not far off, seeing that she had withdrawn from Grace and Everlasting-Love, and was walking alone, went up to her; but so much was her attention engaged with thinking how her present resources would carry her comfortably through, that she mistook her enemies for Grace and Everlasting-Love, which was the more easy for her to do as they had the art of rendering the sounds of their voices similar to those of her friends. They then entered into conversation with her:

Pride. "What a comfortable journey you have kept so steadily in the way. You have never once gone astray since the day that you entered the City of Refuge. Go on as you have begun, and you will never have to complain of cold affections, or doubt of your interest in the love of the Prince, as many do who call themselves pilgrims; nor should this excite surprise, for they are but half-hearted for their Lord."

Self-Confidence. "It is such persons who complain of the badness of the road, and of the difficulty of walking therein. Perhaps they are not really what they profess to be; for if they had entered the City of Refuge, they would have been supplied with everything necessary to render them comfortable; they would have been able to say with you: 'His ways are ways of pleasantness, and all His paths are peace!'"

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

THE CONVENTION.

No. 2.

BY A DELEGATE.

A first, a few words about this annual gathering, ye!ept a Convention. The time seems to have arrived, when some measures will require to be adopted, to restrict, if not to diminish the numbers of persons who congregate at these annual meetings.

Object is, a representation from each of the churches within the limits of the three Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and P. E. Island. There are now three hundred and twenty-eight churches within the three Provinces—and by constitution, each of the six Associations existing, may send five—each of the 8 churches contributing one—and may the contributions justify it, send five in addition to all this, every ordained minister, about one hundred and seventy-five, or perhaps upwards—I use the Yearbook of 1874—is entitled in his own right a seat. Assuming that each church sends but one, this gives a possible reputation of about 530. Two hundred would probably be about a fair average, yet of the churches send three, others send some exceed even this number—alth others are unrepresented altogether—consequently these Conventions

will be found to be as limited a period as ought to be accorded. What the effect of transferring Academic Education to the Governors of the College, and they placing them perhaps more directly under the cognizance and control of the Convention, hardly yet appears. But we may rest assured, that it will not diminish the labours of the governing body nor their responsibilities, nor tend to shorten Convention Sessions.

I do not propose to provide remedies exactly for inconveniences that are visible to all, but if I were permitted to offer a suggestion or two in reference to the state of things as it at present exists, I should say that I think the representation at Conventions is too large, too loose, and unsatisfactorily defined. A dozen or two do all the speaking, as many more on Committees do or assist in doing the real work, and the vast body of delegates,—like myself shall I say—onlookers? Nor should it be forgotten as an element in the discussion of the subject that one church in each of the Associations has always for the current year, borne the burden of providing for a gathering—less onerous than that of a Convention, but still one of pretty serious dimensions. But after all, it is easier to criticise and find fault than it is to remedy existing defects.

In my next No. I propose to discuss the past, present, and probable future of our Foreign Missionary, organization and prospects, in connection with the Convention.

For the Christian Messenger.

INCIDENTS IN NOVA SCOTIA BAPTIST HISTORY.

NO. 4. COUNTY OF PICTOU.

I stated at the close of No. 3 that Pictou might be referred to again, and will now linger for a little about this venerable Scottish town. Its memory is dear to many. By the arrival of that famous emigrant ship Hector, and the remembrance of her living freight still dearer. Though there may not be many, if any of them now living, there are yet many of their descendants.

We have intimated that Mr. Harding preached in Pictou town, and probably Mr. Manning also, but not likely with as much freedom as they would have done under other circumstances. However that might have been, the mind of the Onslow pastor was led to visit this town, not knowing of a Baptist in it, but an individual belonging to a Baptist family from Truro resided there with whom Mr. Munro could lodge, and so he went, and I believe was invited to the house of Doctor McCulloch, but he was not asked to preach. Yet he did preach, for he had come for that purpose. As his visits were repeated, he was offered the Kirk meeting house to preach in, and several began to take an interest in the preaching, and two or three Baptists were found, who began to hope for better days. One of them in particular being encouraged by several gentlemen in the town, opened a subscription paper to see what could be raised as compensation for Mr. Munro, an inducement for him to continue his visits, Mr. Thomas Renton started with his paper, and in a short time had good names for one hundred dollars. Things were beginning to look encouraging. But alas, some circumstance called the attention of Mr. Munro in another direction for a time, and when he would have visited Pictou again, the individual alluded to with whom Mr. Munro could have lodged, had left the town and Mr. M. became discouraged, and the Missionary Board gave him no encouragement. Their views differed in this matter, and the few sheep were left to scatter sorely grieved. The last visit of Mr. M. to Pictou was about the year 1829. Some years after this Mr. Harding and Mr. Manning were together in Pictou on their way to and from P. E. Island. The later efforts of the Missionary Board to establish a mission in Pictou town have been but partially successful. May they soon become more fully so, is the wish of yours truly

COBRQUID.

MEND YOUR WAYS!

A short time ago a Christian man overtook, on the road, a number of his acquaintances and inquired about their occupation that day; they replied, "We have been mending our ways." In their working dress, shovel in hand, they were returning to the rest of home, satisfied with a hard day's work on the public road. The incident is instructive. There are other ways that require mending beside the public

roads. Deep ruts of evil habits, filthy puddles of drunkenness and other corruptions of the heart and life, the unevenness of lying craftiness and vasillation. All these defects in our moral ways regain to be filled in and levelled up. Beside this there unbelief, hardness of heart; selfishness, and other evils which crop out in the lives of many and do great damage to the world. These are like the rough rocks in the road which shatter our carriages and must be removed.

Christian men should be very careful to keep their ways in good trim. Quaggy, contracted, rubbly courses, should never be seen in the church. Every christian's way must be, clear, direct, and even, that the gospel chariot be not hindered.

It is a good law that compels us to turn out and repair the public roads. There is a law which demands that we look after our moral life. "Thus saith the Lord, consider your ways." The penalty for neglect in this matter is too much to hazard. The word of God which commands, also instructs us in the method and supplies the means of mending our ways.

FROM A SUBSCRIBER'S SCRAP BOOK.

For the Christian Messenger.

The following very attractive bill of fare was intended for the *Christian Messenger* of last week, but it did not reach our office till Wednesday, when that day's issue was spread half over the province. We much regret the delay, as it fails largely in its object, that if sent a day, or two earlier, it might have accomplished.—Ed.

READ THIS.

Superintendents, Teachers, Pastors, and all who are interested in Sabbath School work. Do not fail to be present at our Annual Convention to be held with the Berwick Baptist Church on the 16th inst. Come with the intention of staying over one night, for no train arrives at Berwick until about noon. Ample accommodation is guaranteed. Of course the Committee of Arrangement will see that you return for one-third fare, as that privilege can be had for the asking.

The following programme is provided.

1. Organization and reading of letters.
2. Address of welcome. By Supt. Maynard Wheelock, and Response by the elected President.
3. Lessons, how to prepare them—Rev. E. M. Saunders.
4. Lessons, how to teach them—J. W. Bars, Esq., Rev. D. M. Welton.
5. Teachers meetings—E. D. King, Esq.
6. Importance of enlisting the entire congregation in the study of the Bible—Revs. E. O. Reid and J. B. Kempton.
7. The Model Sabbath School Teacher—Rev. D. O. Parker, Supt. J. E. Lockwood.
8. How to maintain order in the Sunday School—Supt. W. A. Porter, and Supt. Mark Curry.

Short discussions are expected to follow each of these addresses.

In behalf of the Executive Committee,
S. J. NEELY.

For the Christian Messenger.

DAVIS MEMORIAL FUND.

The Revd. John Davis was for 15 years minister of Charlottetown Baptist church, and for some time previously of Yarmouth, and St. George. He was a man of cultivated mind, large heart, and extended sympathy, and his removal has made a vacancy not easily supplied. The church over which he presided has for many years been in difficulties, owing to a debt of \$1000 incurred previous to the time when Mr. Davis became its pastor—by the removal of the building to its present central situation. It is now proposed that a *Davis Memorial Fund* be formed, which shall have for its object the payment of the above named debt, as well as the formation of a fund for the erection of a memorial stone, and for the maintenance of his widow, who is very infirm. It is earnestly hoped that this suggestion may be acted upon and, that all the Baptists in these Provinces will give something toward this very desirable object. Large amounts will be thankfully received, and none can be too small to tender. The 5 cents, and the ten cents make in the aggregate, dollars, tens, and hundreds.

Little drops of water,
Little grains of sand,
Make the mighty ocean
And the pleasant land.

And so the largest fortunes are made of cents. "Union is strength." If every one gives a little, and that little soon the debt will be cleared off, and a deed of kindness done which will be long gratefully remembered.