

Our Contributors.

REV. WM. BROWN.

BY REV. E. S. PARKER, B. A.

In the fall of 1901, while on White Head Island as conference missionary, I visited the cemetery there, where rest the remains of a Christian and preacher—Rev. William Brown. Only a temporary wooden tablet made known to me at whose grave I stood. Neither marble slab nor granite column marked the spot, hallowed by human dust and Christian memory. Beautiful lime-stone pebbles had been carefully placed there by loving hands, but time and the elements had misplaced them. Reverently kneeling, I gathered a few together, and formed upon the sacred mound a cross, desiring to give expression to my respect for one, the influence of whose life has survived the death of the body, and lives in the memory of those who loved and highly esteemed him for his work's sake.

Mr. Brown's early life was spent on the mainland near Lubec. He moved to Deer Island when a young man, and lived there for a short time. Later he moved to White Head, an island adjacent to Grand Manan, and fourth in size among the islands in that vicinity. This he made his permanent home.

In 1863 Mr. Brown attended Conference, related to that body his call to the ministry, and received a license to preach. In 1864 he was engaged by the "Second District Meeting Board" and sent to White Head. The revival which resulted from his missionary labors there, and in consequence of which the Free Baptist church was organized, is historic. It is said there were only two Christians on White Head when he began his work there. He found, moreover, a large community, not only unregenerated, but very wicked. Liquor drinking and profanity were the chief evils, though infidelity was not unknown. He began "special meetings" and worked for one month with no apparent results. He was discouraged and decided to leave the island. At a point on the island, near which the largest number of the inhabitants of the island live, is a cove or creek forming the harbor for the numerous fishing craft. On opposite sides of this broad creek were Rev. Mr. Brown, who was about to leave the island, and a young man who had become interested in the meetings. When he learned of Mr. Brown's purpose to leave the island, he called across, "Have one more meeting." That was the turning point in the work. Everything was changed—the mind of the minister, the heart of the people, and the prospects for Christian work. A meeting was held that night. This young man "came out," and others followed him, among whom were men who, ever since, have been leaders in Christian work on White Head and Grand Manan.

The meetings were continued from November until March, and in all about fifty were converted. Being a licentiate, Bro. Brown could not baptize, and secured the services of Rev. J. N. Barnes, who at that time was also enjoying a blessed revival on Grand Manan. Nineteen were at first baptized, twelve of whom were organized into a Free Baptist church. A large number more were added a little later. The Conference recognized the good work of Bro. Brown in ordaining him to the Christian ministry. Revs. J. N. Barnes and Freeman Babcock were authorized to perform the ceremony. He was ordained in 1865. In the minutes of that year the following is recorded: "Bro. Brown has spent most of his time with the church of White Head Island. This church has been steadily increasing in numbers. The Lord has made the labors of our brother a blessing to the people of this little island."

In 1868 he gave some labor to the churches on Campobello and Deer Island. In 1873 he visited churches on the main land. Here, too, blessing came by his brief visit. He held services at Oromocto, and baptized fifteen converts. He spent three months with the church at Rusiagonis, and gave it much assistance. But his stay on the main land continued only for a few months. The next seven years, 1873-1880, he labored much of the time with the churches on the island of Grand Manan. Rev. J. N. Barnes had had extensive revivals all over the island, and had founded churches at Grand Harbor and Seal Cove, as Bro. Doucett had done at North Head. Bro. Brown succeeded them. In the Grand Harbor church six were baptized in 1874. At White Head eighteen were baptized in 1875. (It is right to note that Licentiate Wm. DeWare assisted in the work at White Head this year). In 1876 the united labors of Brethren Brown and T. S. Vanwart resulted in thirty being baptized and added to the church at Seal Cove. Some were added to the White Head church that year. In 1877 Bro. Brown ministered to the church at North Head, and baptized seven. At Grand Harbor and Seal Cove he baptized ten converts in 1878. The year 1878 is a memorable one, not only to the people of North Head, but the whole island, for in that year occurred one of the most extensive revivals that the islands have ever enjoyed. Mr. Brown had held meetings for weeks with no apparent results. His exhortations and fervent prayers had apparently been fruitless. But he had learned not to yield too easily to difficulties in Christian work; that the work was not entirely human. Sinners began to yield, and not until one hundred and thirty had been baptized did the work of the revival come to an end. And quite remarkable, as showing the evange-

listic powers of the man, was the work of the following year, when twenty-three more were baptized. A grand climax this in the story of his active though short life, for such it was. The next we hear of him is that he is unable, through sickness, to attend Conference. A wasting disease had fastened itself upon him. Before the next Conference, 1882, he fell asleep. "He was, during his last days, in the land of Beulah; his hope was strong, his faith triumphant." His faith was of a practical kind. Three weeks before he died, two ministers visited him. One said, "Well, Brother Brown, how are you to-day?" "Very well," he replied, "I'll be out of this in a few days;" and, without any emotion, he added, "My work is all done. It is all right."

Mr. Brown was possessed of a strong moral sense. He was inclined to the good. And yet, while much of his goodness was native, grace had done much for him. It was good that his religious instincts were inbred; for thrown, as he was, in the very midst of wicked surroundings, the gospel appealed to, and saved, him. He lacked educational advantages. Education was a luxury in his day, and in the vicinity in which he spent his youth. He had worked hard all his life, and continued laboring with his hands, while he preached the Word of Life. In this he followed the example of Paul, not his advice; but in his case, as in Paul's, it was a necessity. His message was plain and practical, but potent. There was no restraint in the use of his gifts, but a simplicity and frankness that had no suggestion of self-conscious feeling. He was not a great preacher. He was a power in prayer. It was his simple message, backed by earnest and fervent prayer, that God used to awaken the unconverted.

To him this was a wicked world, and he worked to make it better. He was at home when laboring with companions, as much as when in the pulpit. To influence men to attend his services he is known to have helped them in their work. He was possessed of a true missionary spirit. His companions loved him in return, and placed at his disposal, gratuitously, means by which he was able to supplement a meagre salary. This was the groundwork of his success. It was the application of Paul's working principle, becoming "all things to all men."

The Free Baptists of the islands hold this sainted man in loving memory. It is well they do; for Rev. Wm. Brown was one of three pioneer Free Baptist ministers who in their respective spheres laid deep foundations for Christ's church in all time, by having conducted the first and the greatest revivals in as many distinct communities,—Rev. Cyril Doucett and Rev. J. N. Barnes being the other two.

* * *

There are several cases of smallpox in Kingsclear, a few miles above Fredericton.

OURS IS THE BEST PLACE

... in the city to purchase
Hardware and Woodenware for the
Kitchen.

Our Bargain Counters have been
enlarged and we are now showing
some wonderful bargains in

Sauce Pans
Muffin Pans
Mixing Spoons
Egg Whips
Door Fasteners
Potato Mashers
Meat Choppers
Dish Mops
Egg Beaters
Door Bumpers

and dozens of other articles at 5, 10,
20 and 25 cents. All we ask you is
to come in and look over our Bargain
Counters. You can easily decide
what you want.

Lemont & Sons, House Furnishers

IF YOU'RE GOING TO BUY

A PIANO

Would it not be the part of wisdom
to consult your home dealer before
you make a purchase! We sell only
reliable makes of pianos and are
right here to stand back or every
bargain we make. We have estab-
lished a reputation and purpose to
maintain it. Special inducements to
piano buyers for ten days.

McMURRAY & CO., Booksellers and Music Dealers, FREDERICTON, N. B.

Harvey's Studio

Our new Holiday Styles of
Photographs

Make the best
CHRISTMAS GIFTS.