

OUR DEAD.

A Sketch of the Life and Experience of
Rev. W. B. Wiggins, B. A.

Rev. W. B. Wiggins was born at Central Norton, Kings Co., N. B., Aug. 22nd, 1849. Taught by a Christian mother, his earliest recollection was a desire to become a Christian. He publicly professed Christ while a boy and was baptized by a Baptist minister, Rev. John Curry, March, 1864, and afterwards joined, with his mother, the F. C. Baptist Church at Midland, a few miles from his home. Of his conversion he says—"Though but a boy I deeply felt that I was a sinner and would be lost if the Lord did not save me. I cried to him for pardon and He heard my prayer and gave me such a definite and clear witness of my acceptance and adoption, by the presence of the Holy Spirit, and such joy in my soul, that I have never since had a doubt of my conversion—it was 'sky-blue.'"

In 1870 he received a first-class license from the Provincial Normal School and taught in both Kings and Albert Counties. He subsequently attended Mount Allison College, Sackville, for a year, and then the University of New Brunswick, where he graduated with the Degree of B. A., June 1874. Having passed the Normal School examination for Grammar School License, he took charge of the Superior School at Jacksonville, Carleton Co., August 1st, 1874, where he remained for 8 years, scores of young men and women being educated by him. It was at the close of his term as teacher here that he was led into the blessed experience of entire sanctification or heart purity by the Holy Spirit, through the labors of Brother Aaron Hartt, in the latter part of June, 1882. Of this experience our brother says—"All through a Christian experience of 18 years I felt my need of greater help from God to keep me in the straight and narrow way. I had at times a struggle with an internal tendency to doubt, fear of man, discouragement, impatience and fits of the blues. And when I heard the gospel of full salvation which I was told, if experience would cure me of all this tendency, I became extremely anxious to obtain it at all costs, and sought it day and night in prayer and faith for three weeks. I was not a backslider at this time but was walking in the light, and going from house to house in the neighborhood praying. I was laboring in special religious services every evening to bring souls to Christ, and was blessed of God, and yet my heart was hungry for full salvation, and I put all on the altar to obtain it. When God saw that He could trust me with this pearl of great price, while praying in a private house one Sunday afternoon, the power of the Holy Spirit fell on me and thrilled me through and through like shocks from an electric battery, and I knew that God had answered my prayers and given me the longed for experience. I shouted aloud for some time, 'Glory to Jesus! Glory to Jesus! There seemed to be a hallelujah manufactory in my soul. I went forth now to be severely tested, but the wondrous grace that I

had received stood the test."

Brother Wiggins now visited the United States, where for three months he attended meetings for the promotion of holiness, as also holiness Camp Meetings at Rock and Douglas, Mass.; Round Lake, N. Y.; and Pitman Grove, N. J.; having the privilege of hearing some of the strongest as also the ablest advocates of the doctrine; as Revs. John Inskip, Bishop William Taylor, John Wood, W. B. Gorham, Dr. Wm. Jones, Wm. McDonald, Dr. Geo. Watson, etc. On returning to New Brunswick in the autumn he felt called of God to the work of the ministry. He held services with Brother Hartt at Lakeville, Carleton Co., for a few weeks, when he and the late Rev. Joseph N. Noble felt called of God to labor at Knoxford, Carleton Co., and where they saw a gracious revival, as over a score professed conversion and a number were sanctified wholly. In the spring of 1883, on the invitation of Pastor G. B. Trafton he, in company with Brother S. A. Baker, went to Meductic, York Co., to assist in some special services. Here God honored His Word and over a score of persons were converted, backsliders reclaimed and several sanctified wholly, Rev. G. B. Trafton being the first to receive the blessing. Brother Trafton desiring a change, Brother Wiggins took charge of the church for a few months, during the winter of 1884. On the invitation of Rev. A. H. Trafton he and Brother Noble went to Millville, York Co., to assist the pastor in special services. Here they met with great opposition; but God heard prayer and after weeks of labor were rewarded in seeing about 40 young people profess conversion, and who were baptized by Brother Trafton. Millville will ever be remembered by Brother Wiggins as the hardest fought battlefield and greatest victory of his life.

During this summer he attended Douglas Camp Meeting, Mass.; also assisted in special meetings at Hartland, and visited Meductic and Millville. In the winter of 1885 he held services at Canterbury Station for a short time, and afterwards took charge of the Meductic and Middle Southampton F. C. Baptist Churches for the summer. In November of this year, receiving an urgent call from the F. C. Baptist Church in Moncton, he accepted it and labored with success till the autumn of 1888, when the disfellowship of the ministers took place.

Leaving Moncton, he went to Woodstock to assist in the organization of the Reformed Baptist denomination and was made Recording Secretary, and on Sunday evening, Nov. 4th, 1888, he, together with Brothers Aaron Hartt and S. A. Baker were ordained as ministers of the new denomination. Soon after this Brother Wiggins and G. W. McDonald organized a Reformed Baptist Church at Penniac, York Co., the church home of Miss Alice N. Goodspeed, to whom he was married Sept. 20th, 1900.

Brother Wiggins went to North Head, Grand Manan, and held a series of meetings in a hall where a Reformed Baptist Church was organized with the help of Rev. G. W. McDonald. A number in the F. C. Baptist Church in Moncton, his former pastorate, who had accepted the doctrine of holiness, felt they could not re-

main in the old church under the new conditions of things, and sent for Brother Wiggins to organize a Reformed Baptist Church, which, with the help of Revs. G. W. McDonald and Aaron Hartt, was done Feb. 12th, 1889. Brother Wiggins remained with them as pastor till September, 1893, and succeeded in procuring a lot and erecting a church edifice for their worship.

Receiving an urgent call from Port Maitland and Cedar Lake churches in Nova Scotia, he accepted and remained two years and saw souls converted.

During the autumn of 1895 he accepted the offer of Home Missionary and held services at Presque Isle, We., Royalton, Meductic, Middle Southampton, Millville, St. John and Moncton. In April, 1896, he was called to Woodstock, where he labored for over two months and accepted the pastorate of the church August, 1896, remaining for ten years, till June 30th, 1906. He then became Alliance evangelist for one year, assisting the pastors at Calais, Beals, Seal Cove, North Head and Moncton, and also visited Amherst, Westchester and Oxford.

In July, 1907, being urged to take the pastorate of the Moncton Church, he accepted and remained until June 30th, 1916.

In July, 1916, he returned to a second pastorate at Woodstock, where he remained until June 30th, 1921.

At this time feeling the need of rest and change, he decided to take a bit of vacation, and have the privilege, with Sister Wiggins, of visiting friends in different sections. They made their headquarters at Fredericton for a number of months in the home of C. N. Goodspeed, only brother of Sister Wiggins. He supplied for a number of the brethren when invited to do so. He and his good wife were a great help to the work in the church at Fredericton, where they have many friends and their labors were much appreciated by pastor and people. At the meeting of the Alliance, June, 1922, he was chosen as editor and business manager of the King's Highway. This was not new to him as he had filled the same position some time previously. This position he was filling very efficiently at the time of his death. He will be greatly missed from among us. His counsel was valuable, his method constructive and his life worthy of imitation. He gave to God all the glory for the wonderful way he had been kept and helped his whole life through. Our prayers and sympathy are for his sorrowing widow, that she shall be fully sustained and realize that "He doeth all things well."

P. J. T.

We learn with deep regret of the death of Rev. W. B. Wiggins in Moncton. He was one of the leaders in the Reformed Baptist movement in New Brunswick, and at the time of his death was the official editor of the Highway, the organ of the denomination which he had so faithfully served. He was a man fully dedicated to God's service and his loss to the church is great.—The Wesleyan.

REV. W. B. WIGGINS

An Appreciation.
"Say not his work is done,"