

# The Christian Visitor.

A FAMILY NEWS PAPER: DEVOTED TO RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

REV. I. E. BILL, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth Peace, good will toward Men."  
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## BAPTIST HISTORY OF THESE LOWER PROVINCES. CHAPTER VI.

### Early Ministerial Labours.

The preceding Chapters have been strictly preliminary. Our aim has not so much been to notice special facts, occurring in particular localities, as to give a general view of the religious circumstances and social condition of the early Christians in these Provinces. In that day there was no small amount of honest, fervent piety in the land; but views of doctrine, church organization and ordinances were imperfectly understood; and "non-essentials" was a phrase in very common use. Of course, while such was the case, there was little uniformity in sentiment and practice. Their efforts, therefore, to do good were less guided by system than by impulses of zeal, which would, at times, impel them forward in the pathway of evangelical activity. There was then little cool deliberation in discussing plans and pre-arranging measures for the promotion of religious interests. The heart had more to do with Christian action than the head; and if their mode of operation was not always wisely adopted, it was generally acted upon in the spirit of disinterested benevolence. There was, perhaps, but little external sympathy in the ecclesiastical aspect of Zion at the time; but deep sincerity, intense earnestness, and expansive charity were the prominent characteristics of the class of Christians to whom we now refer. They had not yet been trained to concentrate their efforts in the cause of the Redeemer. There was no missionary society in existence among them that served as a nucleus of combination, by which they could act in concert. If there was harmony of spirit, (and no doubt there was,) their action was generally separate, and each strove to be useful in his own sphere irrespectively of others, and independently of his fellow-labourers in the vineyard of Christian usefulness.

The Fathers for many years laboured rather as *Evangelists*, striving to win souls to Christ wherever they might, than as *Pastors*, leading and guiding the faithful into those eternal observances of church order and discipline, which are indicated and enjoined in the New Testament. Their object seemed rather to aim at the conversion of sinners, than to instruct more perfectly the converted.

It is generally admitted that the usefulness and success of a faithful Minister of Jesus Christ, depend chiefly upon the devotion, energy and tenderness of his inner life. Vigorous intellect, literary and scientific attainments, and even honest piety, are all unavailing, unless there be a special preparation of soul, which, in the most emphatic sense, is spiritual. Ordinary Christians may be deeply devoted, circumspect in their external deportment, and eminent for talents and attainments; but without that *divine unction*, which is especially imparted to qualify men for preaching the Gospel, there will be few fruits of their ministry. If they receive not a spiritual ordination for the work, they will labour in vain.

In addition to the *divine call*, which all the genuine heralds of salvation receive, the early Fathers were impressed with the belief, that they, at times, were specially called to preach the Gospel in some particular locality. These impressions, sometimes, were deep—powerful—irresistible. An impression of the kind, was deemed a "Macedonian cry," which could not be safely disregarded. In it a special commission from Heaven was recognized. A minister, thus exercised, heard no audible voice of command; but there was a spiritual mandate in the soul, the import of which was—"Go, and preach unto a certain community the preaching that I bid thee." In this all-absorbing soul-impression a particular locality was distinctly indicated. It might be a remote section which the preacher had never visited—he might be an entire stranger to the people, for whose salvation his spirit was yearning—and there might be demaying difficulties in the way of performing the mission, to which he was impelled by the mysterious workings of an internal power; but he had no peace of mind so long as he hesitated to move in the direction to which he was spiritually impelled. The impulse of his soul gave a tone and earnestness to all his prayers; it engrossed his thoughts by day, and mingled with his dreams by night. There may have been a long and painful struggle between a conscious sense of personal weakness and a pressing conviction of imperative duty. When he thought of his own insufficiency for the work to which he was constrained, there may have been trembling, and tears, and mental agony; but his hesitancy only augmented the urgency of the inducements under which he was labouring. A minister, under such exercises, seldom had any freedom of spirit or success in preaching anywhere so long as he remained "disobedient to the heavenly vision."

When, at length, he yielded to the overpowering impression of his mind, and actually began to labour in accordance with it, there was almost invariably a demonstration of God's approval. Thoroughly convinced himself that he was not only preaching the Gospel to sinners in general, but that he was

delivering a special message to a particular community, he spoke to the people with as much solemnity, earnestness, and effect as did Jonah when denouncing the sins of Nineveh. There was an impassioned warmth in his manner, which gave point and power to his utterances. His hearers could not doubt his sincerity; and they were made to feel, and tremble while they felt, that his words were words of truth which could not be disregarded with impunity. His auditors believed him to be an authorized messenger of God. If he was divinely assisted to preach, they were divinely assisted to hear. Perhaps some of them had never before listened to the awakening sound of the Gospel, and when their lost condition was described to them by the preacher they were appalled by a crushing sense of the danger to which they had exposed themselves by transgressing God's laws.

Of the special impressions of soul, which, for the most part, guided the Fathers in their itinerant movements, we offer no opinion of our own. Our purpose is to state facts—and specify causes which produced stupendous effects. Often indeed were the Hardings, the Mannings, the Dimocks, and their early fellow-labourers, charged with fanaticism, because they declared that the impulses of which we have been speaking, were the invisible hands by which they were led in the pathway of duty, and to which they unhesitatingly attributed their ministerial success. Whatever some of their clerical successors may think of these special soul exercises, it is an undeniable truth that they were acknowledged by the Fathers, and recognized as divine intimations of God's will respecting their labours. It is not for us to say they were mistaken. The blessed results should impose silence upon the tongue of the cold-hearted sceptic. There are mysteries in religion which worldly philosophy cannot fathom or comprehend. The process of regeneration itself is too absurd for intellectual analysis or investigation. Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Marvel not that I said unto thee, ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it pleaseth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth; so is every one that is born of the spirit."

Among the departed worthies of our denomination, not one of them appeared to be more influenced by constraining impressions, which prompted him to visit certain localities in the capacity of an Evangelist than did Elder Thomas Ansley. These spiritual intimations gave direction to most of his early labours, which, in an eminent degree, were crowned with success. Even after he became the Pastor of a Church, which had a claim upon his entire services, he could not resist certain impulses of soul that induced him, at times, to leave the people of his charge, and labour in various remote sections of the Provinces. A striking instance in his history, illustrative of these impressions, and of their results, occurred about thirty years ago, when he was thus prompted to visit Yarmouth. For weeks his soul was burdened and agitated by a weighty and burning belief that he had a special message from God to the people there. "The hand of God is upon me, and I must go," said he, as he started on his mission to preach the Gospel to strangers, who were a hundred and twenty miles away. The result of this visit to that people, was an addition of multitudes to the Church. Many among the faithful in Zion, attribute their conversion to his instrumentalities, who are still living witnesses for God. He was constrained by similar exercises of soul to travel, and preach Jesus in other localities, and the same soul-saving effects followed. He finished his work on earth in the midst of a religious Revival far from his home; and whether he had been impelled to go with a special message of salvation to the perishing. In the midst of that glorious display of God's power and grace, Elders Robinson and Thompson, who for almost twenty seven years have laboured successfully in the Gospel, were led to embrace Baptist sentiments, and become prominent promoters of our denominational interests.

Brother W. C. Rideout, too, whose evangelical labours have been signally blessed to the conversion of souls, has been directed in many of his most useful movements by those special impressions, on which we have been dilating in this chapter. There may have been many efficient Evangelists in these Provinces, whose adaptability for the duties of Pastors may be doubted; but whose itinerant labours have led many to the Cross of Christ, and kindled those revival fires, which, in other days, illuminated those regions, where our most efficient Churches are now flourishing. At a former period, when there were no organized missionary institutions to give special direction to the labours of the servants of Christ in bearing the divine message to the destitute, the Head and King of Zion, in infinite mercy, raised up a class of Evangelists, who were adapted to the circumstances of the time, and who, by spiritual impulses, were led in the pathway of duty. As in the days of primitive Christianity, the Herald of Salvation, journeyed whithersoever the Spirit led them, and in their peripatetic labours, the Gospel seed was sown, which sprang up and produced those effects, which will be particularly delineated in the course of our history. These men were divinely qualified, and fitted for the time in which they laboured; and if, in their successors, we recognize a class of Preachers who, in intellectual culture, are better adapted to the present state of so-

ciety, we cannot forget the sainted worthies of a by-gone day, who were spiritual pioneers in these Provinces, and who lived to see the moral desert "rejoice and blossom as the rose." "They rest from their labours, and their works do follow them." Ice-hearted worldlings may have sneered at their zeal, and denounced them as enthusiasts; but their names and their ministry, embalmed in the remembrance of the pious of our own day; and the history of their activity, devotedness, and efficiency in the cause of piety and truth, will be transmitted to those who will live after us. M.

## English Correspondence.

### Letter from Rev. C. Spurgeon.

#### THE DEFENCE OF LUCKNOW.

The sanguinary struggle which is still being carried on in the heart of India reveals every month some fresh instance of heroic fortitude, or successful daring, that will not allow the feeling of interest in it to flag. The despatch of Brigadier-General Inglis, on whom, after the death of Sir H. Lawrence, devolved the command of the garrison of Lucknow, is worthy of a place in the future history of the British Empire. It tells how a small force, protecting women and children, held their post in the centre of Lucknow with the tenacity of despair for nearly three months against a relentless foe who hemmed them in on all sides. How they were incessantly fired upon, and harassed day and night until no place was perfectly secure from danger. How cholera and small-pox, complicated with low fever, enfeebled the strength of men, and cut short the lives of women and especially children. How these diseases were aggravated by the absence of nourishing food, save coarse beef and silt coarser flour. How the besiegers made at intervals four regular assaults which were preceded by the explosion of mines by which breaches were made in the walls. How every man, from the highest to the lowest, took his weapons and his stand, prepared to die but resolved not to yield, and fought as if the salvation of the whole depended on the prowess of his single arm. How he rebel host was each time driven back from the open breach with loss and discouragement. How by countermining in all directions the resolute defenders succeeded in discovering and destroying four of the principal mines. How no fewer than five sorties were made, in which they spiked two of the enemy's heaviest guns, and blew up several of the houses from which the most harassing fire had been kept up. How in addition to military duty, the force was nightly employed in repairing defences, in moving guns, in burying dead animals, in conveying ammunition and stores from one place to another, and other fatiguing duties. How officers and soldiers, and civilians, regardless of rank and class, handled the musket or mattock, mounted guard as sentry, or descended into the mine, and during the eighty-seven days that the siege lasted, each man nobly and unflinchingly did his duty. How the women of the garrison sustained the courage of the men, by their patient endurance and Christian resignation, and emulated the example of Florence Nightingale by tenderly nursing the sick and wounded. And how by the blessing of God, the struggle was brought to a successful issue. But the long list of brave men who fell in this unequal conflict bears the most melancholy testimony to its severity. The heart swells with mingled emotions at the brief recital of this history, a feeling of joy for the deliverance of the devoted band from their fiendish enemies is heightened by sympathy for the sufferings they have borne; he eyes overflow for the fallen because of the families bereaved, the lips pronounced them blessed for their example is a tower of strength. To God be all the praise, He heard and answered prayer, and delivered his servants from the battle that was against them round about.

#### THE DEFENDERS OF LUCKNOW IN SAFETY.

We are conscious of a feeling of exultation when a difficult enterprise has been successfully accomplished, that exultation is conjoined with gladness when the success has been achieved without loss of life, and it is further combined with admiration when the whole has been the result of a skillful and well digested plan. These feelings are all awakened as we follow, in imagination, the survivors of the garrison of Lucknow, when they quitted the Residency, the scene of so many trials, on their way to a place of safety, under the able guidance of Sir Colin Campbell. The work to be done must be looked at, before we can duly appreciate the skill of the Commander-in-chief. The sick and wounded, the women and children, numbering more than a thousand souls, every gun of any value, ammunition, stores, treasures, and provisions are to be removed from the centre of a large town, through narrow winding streets, and that without loss or even confusion, in the face of a foe estimated from thirty to sixty thousand in number. Such was the task before Sir Colin, and his sagacious mind was equal to it. As his advance forward, which was, of course, attended by the chances of war, formed a part of the well laid plan, it must be glanced at. When he reached the town, instead of following the way through the streets along which Havelock had been compelled to fight his way to the relief of the garrison, he turned to the

right and took possession of a suburban palace, named Dilkoosha, where he left all the baggage of the army and a regiment to guard it; intending to make that the place of rendezvous on his return. Thence he proceeded to the residency, capturing three strongly fortified places, first breaching them with cannon then taking them by storm.—This gave a safe passage from the Residency to Dilkoosha. Now came the crowning stratagem, which was carried out with complete success. When all things were prepared for removal, a cannonade was kept up against a strongly fortified post of the enemy, who were thus deceived into the apprehension of an assault; at midnight, however, the withdrawal commenced, without confusion or the least interruption, each detachment filed off, bringing everything away, and the gallant Commander-in-chief brought up the rear with a guard prepared to crush the foe if they had dared to show themselves; but so completely were the enemy deceived that they kept up their fire upon the place for several hours after it had been abandoned. By four o'clock in the morning, all were in safety at Dilkoosha.

#### FUNERAL SERMON FOR SIR H. HAVELOCK.

On Sunday morning, January 17th, the Rev. W. Brock of Bloomsbury Chapel, paid a tribute of respect to the memory of the late Sir Henry Havelock. The sermon, which occupied an hour in the delivery, was listened to with profound attention. So great was the interest excited, and so large the number of persons unable to gain admittance, that the sermon was repeated on Monday evening.

On both occasions Mr. Brock took for his text the passage in Genesis:—"And Enoch walked with God, and he was not: for God took him."

Though this truly great and good man did not survive to enjoy the honours which his queen and country were preparing for him, his family will receive the same titles and distinctions which they would have inherited, had his life been spared.

The Royal Gazette contains an order conferring the baronetcy on his eldest son and his heirs, and in case of failure, with reversion to the heirs of the deceased General.—Lady Havelock is to be entitled to the rank of a Baronet's widow. These honours are indeed well merited, and it is fitting that the sovereign should distinguish the living for the sake of the dead; but, alas! how impotent they are to alleviate the sorrow of the widowed mother! How fondly she must have hoped that the gracious hand which had shielded her husband amid such imminent perils, and enabled him unscathed to perform such signal services to his country, would protect him till he should return, when the toils of war were over, to his family. Who can make up to her the great loss she has sustained? The Lord alone, who has suffered this trying bereavement to be made in her domestic happiness, can effectually console.

Lady Havelock has been sojourning at Bonn, in Germany. There she received the fatal intelligence of her husband's death. I have been informed that one of her daughters saw the painful news first in a German newspaper, and that the next post brought a letter from her brother, Mr. Marshman, announcing the receipt of sad news from India, with an intimation that he himself was coming.—Thus it is, when the good are taken away, the living are left to mourn, and we sorrow more for the deep grief of survivors than for the dead, who die in the Lord, and are blessed.

#### THE MARRIAGE OF THE PRINCESS ROYAL.

This week has witnessed the celebration of an event of importance and lively interest to the highest family in the realm, and no less so to all her Majesty's loyal subjects.

The alliances formed by the younger branches of the reigning dynasties of Europe are affairs of no trifling moment to statesmen and politicians. In the present instance the eldest daughter of the Queen of England is affianced to the eldest son of the brother of the King of Prussia. The reigning king is so ill that his brother now administers the government, and it will not be long probably before he succeeds to the throne; then will the Princess Royal, now married to Prince Frederick William, be only one step removed from the dignity of Queen of Prussia. But these are not the considerations which give interest to this event in the eyes of England's sons and England's daughters.

Future contingencies of royalty are too remote to affect the hearts of the people, and too uncertain to afford a ground for present satisfaction. That which moves them is the marriage itself, always an eventful affair, and especially so in the family of a Queen beloved and honoured: Novelty also lends its charm, for this is the first marriage, the first loosening of the family tie; and then the youth of the bride, just seventeen years of age, claims for her kindly sympathy; while the fact that her heart goes with her hand, imparts a glow which is not always present at royal weddings.

No doubt at many a fire-side the following day was the account of the nuptials given in the daily papers read with glancing eyes and hearty wishes for the welfare of the young couple. So vivid was the description in the Times that a lively imagination could picture to itself the scene with a distinctness second only to the favoured few who witnessed it. One can almost see the array of

beauty and nobility with all the accompaniments of plumes and dresses and precious ornaments, and varied colours. Many are the personages of interest from the stately, though benignant Queen, to the veteran Premier bearing the sword of state, who were then assembled in St. James' Chapel. But the bride and bridegroom are the chief points of attraction. The latter entered before the bride and took his allotted station. Then followed the youthful Princess, leaning on the arm of her noble father, and on her left supported by the King of the Belgians, accompanied by her bridesmaids, timid and shrinking, paler than the bridal dress of spotless white.

The full marriage service of the church of England being ended, there followed affectionate greetings such as must have moved the most staid, and afforded pleasing indication of the strong family attachment which binds together the royal household, and that the marriage is one of mutual affection, and not a mere state alliance. When they had returned to Buckingham palace, the Queen appeared on the balcony and presented her daughter to the assembled thousands, who testified in a hearty manner their loyal feeling, and their appreciation of this mark of consideration on the part of Her Majesty.

At five o'clock the Prince and his bride proceeded by train to Windsor. There they were received with every demonstration of welcome. The boys of Eton College, seven hundred in number, added not a little by their venement cheering to the heartiness of the reception. About twenty of them, having obtained permission, removed the horses from the carriage and drew it up to the castle. The West end of London was illuminated in the evening. Every thing passed off auspiciously, and the weather was as lovely as could be desired for such an occasion. c. s.

Feb. 2d, 1858.

## The Rev. J. A. James, on Preaching.

God's harvest must be gathered with His own implement—a full, unadulterated, undiminished Gospel! Human nature may incessantly devise improved implements of labor. Our implement was invented by Omnipotence 1800 years ago; it was made perfect, and no room left for skill to alter it! No reaping machine of modern invention can be supplied to us; the sickle of the gospel of Christ is still in our hands, and the world cannot alter it. We hear much now-a-days of adapting preaching to the age in which we live, and it by that meant the sterner and more rigid Christian system of bygone ages, I say, let us have it: but if by "adaptation," be meant more philosophy and less Christianity, more mystic spiritualism and less Evangelical simplicity, my God, in His great mercy, save us from it! It is treason against truth, and against the Gospel of Truth; it will destroy our churches, it will pull down our denominations, and every creed and free member of religion in them!

You may as well attempt to reap a harvest with a lady's pair of scissors or a razor, instead of a sickle, as to save souls by some man's preaching! It may have the polish of eloquence and all the keenness of wit, but be as nothing after all. And then a man may be an idler and loiterer notwithstanding, just as the laborer may have a right good sickle in his hand, and yet not cut down the harvest through want of energy. We want men that labor in the closer, which must be the spring of all our labor; we should all be better preachers if we were holier men. We must sharpen our sickle on the whetstone of the Bible in our closets! We want men like Owen, Baxter and Martin. These were the men!—Sermon before the Congregational Union at Cheltenham.

## News Paragraphs.

**PROFITS OF THE GREAT FARM.**—The report of the United States Patent Office thus states the value of the leading crops of the country for 1855:—Indian corn, \$360,000,000; wheat, \$247,500,000; hay and fodder, \$160,000,000; pasturage, \$143,000,000; cotton, \$136,000,000; oats, \$68,000,000; garden products, \$50,000,000; potatoes, \$11,250,900; sugar, \$35,000,000; orchard products, \$25,500,000; total, \$1,266,250,000.

**COL. CROSS,** an American, has recently arrived from India, where he amassed upward of \$7,500,000, and is in treaty for the purchase of large estates in Yorkshire, England. The Colonel left England in 1808, almost penniless.

The people of Washington maintain 59 churches, the expense of which will certainly average over \$0—\$59,000.

The New York papers state that the receipt of potatoes from Nova Scotia, in that city, since 1st Nov., has been 217,000 bushels.

A turkey, one year old, weighing 40 lbs., was slaughtered at Swaffham, Suffolk Co., Eng., on 22d Dec., for the London market.

The entire corps of city watchman, in Petersburg, Va., have joined the Sons of Temperance.

A BELIEF prevails on the continent, that the superannuated King of Prussia will abdicate in favor of his son Frederick William, who has just married the Princess Royal of England. This may secure a more liberal policy in Prussia.

The failures in Britain since last October are to the amount of \$245,000,000.

Mrs. ROWLAND ANDERSON, of South Deerfield, Mass., gave a dinner party to her aged neighbors on the 14th ult. The united ages of ten of the invited guests was 793 years, making the average age of each 79½ years; and although just ready to embark upon that shoreless ocean that never sends back a recumbent wave, the party was buoyant and happy.

TWENTY thousand dozen of eggs were gathered and exported by one dealer in the town of Millbridge, Maine, during the past season.

In the city of Philadelphia, last year, 16 murders were committed, and the murderers convicted. The aggregate of arrests was 22,148.

The railways in the United States, now open, extend to 25,000 miles.

DURING the past year, 20,171 persons went to Europe by steamship, and 34,565 to this country, making a total of 53,746 passengers who crossed the Atlantic. An increase of 24,287 passengers transported as compared with 1856.

BRANDY, wine, cigars and tobacco imported in the United States last year cost \$11,934,968!

GREAT BRITAIN has invested \$1,500,000,000 in railways, and has completed 8,740 miles, and 1080 miles are now in the course of construction.

The County of Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, owned on the 31st of December, 1857, 208 vessels of 7972 tons, and valued at \$82,455. The number of vessels sold out of the county during the past year was 5, tonnage 402, valued at \$4,450.—Total now owned in the County 203 vessels, 7590 tons, valued at \$50,005.

The products of the California mines for the past six years are valued at 443,900,000, and those of Australia since their discovery at \$295,814,000.

MUNIFICENT BEQUEST.—Mr. Benjamin Sutton, of Leicester, who died recently, has bequeathed a sum of £30,000 to various charities.

Massachusetts has one hundred and twenty-seven people to a square mile; Rhode Island one hundred and twelve; Connecticut seventy nine; New York sixty-five.

A million sterling is spent in London yearly, in aid of the sick; nearly 7,000,000 persons—one tenth of the whole population—receive medical advice gratuitously.

Almost everybody thinks that he could edit a newspaper a little better than anybody else. Yet historians and essayists of high repute have made deplorable failures in this line of literature. They have proved unsuccessful even in writing "leaders," and that is by no means, the great work of journalism.

Mr. Meriam says that fifty-nine persons were killed and seventy-nine persons injured—six of whom were not expected to recover—by fire resulting from the use of camphene and other burning fluids of a kindred preparation, during the past year. As to the loss of property resulting from fires caused by camphene, Mr. Meriam, puts the figures at \$124,195, which are probably too low.

AN UGLY LOT.—One hundred and fifty-seven unhappy married people have applied for divorce at Cincinnati up to the 8th inst. A reporter says: Early in the morning the court-room was thronged with those ill-matched pairs, who looked anything else but lovingly towards one another. Frowns disgraced the faces where smiles should have been, and those who should have walked hand-in-hand down the pathway of life until they reached the shores of eternity, took seats as far removed from each other as possible.—They thought it contained every one to sit in the same room together, and whenever their eyes chanced to meet they flashed—not forth fire of love, but that of hate, deep and lasting.

The trials of life are the tests which ascertain how much gold there is in us.

A little fruit proves the nature of the tree, but abundant proves its usefulness.

The total value of gold and silver in the world at present is said to be more than \$2,000,000,000.

It is reckoned that 100,000 people die annually in England of preventable diseases.

THE BRAVE INGLIS, who has done so heroic a defence at Lucknow, is the son of the late Bishop of Nova Scotia, the Right Rev. John Inglis, and grandson of the Right Rev. Chas. Inglis, also Bishop of the same province, and who, when Rector of Trinity Church New York, continued to pray for the King and Royal Family, though the soldiers of Washington's army had threatened him with violence if he did so, and attended in a body at his church to compel him to desist.

A fire occurred the other day at the residence of Lord Napier, the British Ambassador at Washington, which damaged the wardrobe of Lady Napier to the extent of \$3000 or \$3000.

The truly generous is the truly wise; and he who loves not others, lives unloved.