

Obituary

MRS. ASA D. CROWELL.

Mrs. Crowell was born in Dublin, Ireland, in the year 1810, and died in Barrington, October 24th, 1869, being in her 59th year.

When of very tender years, she was the subject of deep and strong religious feelings. Speaking of these, she would say—'Oh! how I would try to be good; and if I had done any thing wrong during the day, at night my anguish of mind would be very great.' About this time she received from a friend a book, denominated, 'Little Henry and his Bester,' containing a brief sketch of the life of a good boy. The perusal of this little book greatly strengthened her desire for the higher and purer life which she was yet to possess in all its blessed fulness. She became about this period very fond of sacred poetry, and Watts' Hymns for children were treasured up in her memory. When eleven years old, her convictions on account of sin were very powerful, and she had great distress of mind; but in her twelfth year, whilst on a visit to an uncle, who was a Methodist Local Preacher, that glorious change was wrought in her heart by God's Holy Spirit, the results of which were to be lasting as eternity. From this important period her true life began. Soon after this she was the subject of a long and severe illness, but the Faithful and True One was present with His all-comforting and sustaining grace. Referring to this part of her experience, she remarks—'Oh! how I loved my Saviour and my Bible. I felt a manifest change. I had power over sin. I was happy all the time.'

Our Sister was endowed with more than mediocre intellectual abilities. She was manifested at two public examinations in the 'Principles of the Christian Religion,' held in Christ Church, Dublin. At each of these her proficiency merited a beautiful premium Bible—no of which is still kept in the possession of the family as a most precious memento.

In 1827 she emigrated to Quebec, and became a resident of St. Lawrence, July 1833, when she was married to the Rev. Mr. McDonald, Wesleyan Minister. Shortly after their arrival they left for Liverpool, Nova Scotia, where they remained till the following winter, when Mr. McDonald went to Yarmouth to attend Missionary Meetings. Whilst in this town he took a heavy cold, inflammation followed, and he soon succumbed to the mortal foe, and was borne from the holy toil of earth to the perfect rest and joy of Heaven. He died on the 16th of March, 1834. Thus, within the brief space of eight or nine months she was left a widow in a strange land among strangers. But that Father, who is all-merciful towards His children, is so signally manifested at such seasons, did not fail. Her husband in this crisis. Friends, warm-hearted and true, were raised up, and by their untiring sympathies and tangible kindnesses, they smoothed the roughness of the way and made it comparatively easy. To this part of her life she has often referred with the deepest gratitude.

As soon as circumstances would admit, she entered upon the duties of School-teacher in Yarmouth. In this position she was not permitted to continue long. Failing health compelled her to seek a more quiet life. She came to Barrington, and was here united in marriage to Mr. Asa D. Crowell, who still survives her. During her residence in this place she was a faithful, devoted and exemplary member of the Church. She filled the office of Class Leader for some time, and made herself very useful. This writer became acquainted with her about eighteen months ago. She was then in delicate health, and had been in that condition for years. Occasionally, however, she was permitted to converse with God's people in His temple—a privilege that she most fully enjoyed and esteemed.

A number of years since she was made the happy possessor of a full salvation, and as she advanced in holiness, her heart, sweet and lovely was purged. The deep calm of her spiritual life never seemed perturbed by the rising tides of the present life. Her experience was a perfect realization of St. Paul's words—'Our life is hid with Christ in God.' Her last illness began in the early part of this year, and she failed almost imperceptibly, but surely, up to the time of her decease. Her frequent opportunities of visiting her during those months, and Oh! how precious were those visits. The perfect faith, peace, joy and the heavenly bliss which seemed ever present in her words and looks, can never be forgotten. Never has it been my privilege to see any one so fully lost in God as she was. She was indeed quite on the verge of heaven. Oh! that the formalists, infidels, and mockers of our day could only witness such holy scenes, surely they would trust altogether in the Crucified.

Our dear Sister passed peacefully and triumphantly from the earthly to the heavenly Sabbath. Already she has greeted some of her family who preceded her to Heaven, and it is to be hoped that those she has left behind will follow her as she followed Christ, and that their union will be perfected in Heaven.

R. W.

Barrington, Dec. 21st.

MR. GEORGE CANN, SYDNEY MINES ROAD.

We send you a short obituary of Mr. George Cann, another of our friends on the Sydney Mines Road that death has separated from us. Mr. Cann was keeper of 'Faint Island Light'—became faithful assistant to the last at his post struggling with the disease that finally compelled him to cease at once to work and live. He died while his Minister Bro. Prestwood was attending our Conference in July, but he with others will be glad to know that Mr. Cann died 'trusting in Jesus.' Our dear brother was respected by all his acquaintances by the world for his sobriety, uprightness, fidelity; by his ministers for his hospitality; by the church as a sincere God-fearing man and by his family as a kind husband and indulgent father. We commend to the sympathies and prayers of God's people his pious and devoted widow and ten children who deeply mourn their loss, and his aged mother who is 'ready prepared' waiting for the call of the Master. May they all meet in Heaven.

J. V. JORD.

Provincial Wesleyan.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1869.

The Old Year.

But a few days remain to us of 1869, and they will soon be gone. The year about to die is the greatest importance. Though not a very memorable year in the history of the world at large, it will yet be remembered as the period during which some striking occurrences of general interest transpired. We are not aware that any very remarkable discovery has been made during the present year in any part of the scientific domain. Livingstone, the heroic and indefatigable African explorer, may perhaps have penetrated some new regions during the twelve

months about expiring. But if 1869 has not been signalized by startling scientific discoveries, or even by wonderful mechanical inventions, it has witnessed the completion of some grand feats of engineering skill. The opening for traffic during the year of the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad, has been a noteworthy circumstance. The rapidity with which this long line of communication between the shores of two great Oceans was built, the engineering difficulties surmounted in carrying it over the mountainous ranges traversed by it, and the important results, commercial and political, likely to accrue from its successful working, combine to render the completion of this important public work an event to be remembered.

The laying of another Sub-Oceanic Cable between Europe and America during the present year, though not invested with the thrilling interest connected with the earlier attempts and performances of a similar kind, has yet been noted with interest. But the opening of the Suez Canal to the Commerce of the world, has been the grand secular event of the year. The most glowing anticipations of the commercial, political and religious changes to be brought about by the opening and maintenance of this new line of communication between Europe and the farther East, have been indulged in by its enthusiastic promoters. How far these brilliant expectations will be realized the future alone can tell. But it must be admitted that the junction of two great continents, effected by M. de Lesseps' noble work, which pierces the richly suggestive historic ground forming the celebrated Egyptian isthmus, is well calculated to excite the imagination of thoughtful men.

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The Ecclesiastical event of the year which has excited the greatest interest throughout the Christian world is the assembling of the Vatican Council at Rome. It must be confessed that the coming together for consultation of so many men of mark, position and influence, from so many different regions and races, representing so many millions of people as the Roman Catholic Bishops do, is a fact that could not fail to arouse universal attention. Nothing has yet transpired to enable one to infer with certainty the character of the conclusions at which the Council will ultimately arrive on the subjects which it will successively be submitted for its consideration. But we entertain a strong conviction that the proceedings of the Council will, when known by and bye, give an immense stimulus to the long-enduring controversy between Protestantism and Roman Catholicism.

Not many great men have passed away during the present year. Among the English speaking races, a great orator, Lord Derby, and a great philanthropist, Mr. Peabody, have died, but neither of them prematurely. Methodism has been peculiarly favored this year. Nowhere throughout the world has it lost one first-rate man by death in 1869.

Over a wide expanse of the Earth's surface great atmospheric vicissitudes have been experienced during certain portions of the year. Scorching droughts have alternated with unusually heavy rain-falls, sometimes accompanied with destructive tornadoes. The health of the world has, upon the whole, been sound, even above the average throughout the year. Some localities, never free from the presence of dangerous diseases at certain seasons of the year, have furnished as usual a heavy quota to the grim destroyer, and everywhere death's regular tribute has been demanded and paid; yet the plague and the pestilence have not made greater havoc among the nations generally in the year closing.

The poor are always with us; and some parts of the world, peculiarly liable to such visitations have been threatened with famine this year; but generally in 1869, the world has had bread enough and to spare.

There has been some confused fighting in Central America, Cuba, Hayti, and Paraguay; and in Spain and Dalmatia there have been insurrections, but no great war has raged among the chief powers of the world, and no grand decisive battle has been given to the record of warlike achievement in 1869.

Summing up, we may conclude that there have been better years for humanity than 1869, but that also there have been, and easily might be, some worse ones. May God grant to us all mercy, forgiveness for the sins and imperfections of the year nearly gone, and love and protection for the year that has almost come.

J. R. N.

Revival—Preparations for It.

It does not admit of a question that there are many in our Churches who wish for a revival of true religion. They are grieved at the want of power in the services of the Sanctuary, at the absence of strong and striking evidences of Christian holiness among professed believers, and at the rarity of conversions from the power of Satan unto God. They hope for better days. They trust that somewhere in the Connection, and at some time before the next Conference, there will be 'showers of blessing' and numerous accessions to the number of the saved. It may be that some are already prepared, and at such a time, large expectations are founded. When such means have grown out of a quickened personal piety—when they have developed personal zeal, self-denial and humility—when they have contributed to the relief of the minister by a cordial cooperation with him in the work of soul-saving, then have such special means been of great benefit to the Church. And such they will doubtless be again. Yet even they may be perverted, and may become more a curse than a blessing. If they are looked upon as essential to spiritual prosperity—if because conversions are then expected they should be expected at other times and under the ordinary ministry of the word—above all, if they are regarded as affording a compensation for past indifference, or an ex-

ercise for future neglect; or if they become the method of testing not only the strength of the preacher's constitution but the vigor of his faith, the soundness of his judgment or the readiness of his tact, or his ability to conduct single-handed with his outside of the Church, and cloth and heartlessness inside of it, then may such services be a snare, and a cause of spiritual retrogression rather than of progress.

Other means must be employed, both in conjunction with these and independently of them, if we would secure anything like a genuine and general revival of the work of God.

Individual humiliation and heart searching is our first business. The sin of a land is that of the separate persons in it. The declension of a Church, spiritually, is not the fault of that Church in its collective capacity, but of its members personally. There is no corporate conscience to be enlightened, no corporate heart to be renewed. We must find out our own faults. We must ascertain our own guilt. We must humble our own souls before the Lord. When the prophet described Israel's National repentance he represented every family in the land mourning apart and their wives apart. Penitential grief when deep and pungent is nursed in solitude. The resort to a forsaken corner, with strong crying and tears on the part of professing Christians, is one of the happiest signs of returning prosperity, and a sure omen of a future close will reveal. But it must be admitted that the junction of two great continents, effected by M. de Lesseps' noble work, which pierces the richly suggestive historic ground forming the celebrated Egyptian isthmus, is well calculated to excite the imagination of thoughtful men.

Within the boundaries of the British Empire, the most notable politico-ecclesiastical event of the year has been the enactment of the Irish Church disestablishment measure. As redressing a manifest grievance, none the less painfully felt because designated sentimental, and constituting a precedent sure to be followed by somewhat similar acts in other parts of the Empire in good time, the passage into law of the Irish Church Bill will long be kept in mind.

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