

The Rev. Alexander Topp was born in 1815, near Elgin, in the academy of which he received his early education, whence he went to the Aberdeen University, where he won some of the highest honours in the gift of that Institution. He was licensed to preach at the early age of twenty-one. After spending fourteen years as pastor of the very large congregation in Elgin, and six years in charge of the Free Roxburgh Church, Edinburgh, he accepted the repeated call to Knox Church, Toronto. When he came to Canada he soon took a high position not only in his own Church, but was respected and beloved by members of all branches of the Church Catholic. He was unanimously elected Moderator of the General Assembly of the Canada Presbyterian Church, in 1868. To him is due a large share of honour of bringing about a union between his own Church and the Old Kirk Presbyterians, and at the second meeting of the General Assembly of the United Church he was very fitly elected to the Moderator's chair. His benevolent heart made him ever ready to help in any practical scheme for the good of mankind, and the catholicity of his spirit made him glad to co-operate in such a united effort of Christians to spread God's truth as the Bible Society. He was elected a Vice President of this Society in 1870, and though seldom able to be present at the Board meetings, he was always a warm advocate of the cause. In 1873 he preached the Society's Anniversary Sermon from which we quote the following :—

“May God the Spirit enable you to realize more powerfully your obligations to Christ who bought you with His blood, and whose you profess to be. “And let me say, my friends, that if this is the feeling of your hearts, you will cordially support and countenance the object for which I have been requested this day to plead. We have, as separate churches, each our own missionary institutions to uphold. But that should not prevent us from saying to others engaged in the same glorious work, *God speed*, or from stretching forth a helping hand, as God gives us the ability. I rejoice, therefore, in the present opportunity and privilege of advocating the claims of the British and Foreign Bible Society, because whatever denominational distinctions may otherwise hinder a closer fellowship, there is here common ground on which we can meet—the union and sympathy which, if we are truly the people of God, ought to bind us together in spreading abroad His revealed will—the knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus. The B. & F. B. Society needs no eulogy from any one. Its first conception was remarkable in the Providence of God. The seed was singularly planted, and gradually it has grown up to become a mighty tree whose branches spread over all the nations, and to the distant isles of the sea. Its action has contributed to the formation of almost every Bible Society throughout the world. The benefits which it has conferred upon the world in the dissemination of the Word of God are incalculable.”

The Directors have expressed their sympathy with the bereaved widow and family of our deceased Vice-President, and no doubt all members of the Society unite in the same feeling. Let us pray that they may have much of the comfort of the Holy Ghost, and that the important congregation over which Dr. Topp presided so long, may be guided by the same Spirit in their choice of his successor.

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There was handed over on the 5th October, by the Rev. Dr. Fraser, of Bond Head, on behalf of Executors, a bequest to the Upper Canada Bible Society,