

was his desire for this work, that he at first promptly declined a visit to Montreal. But when the request was repeated, and strongly pressed upon him, after much prayer and the almost unanimous advice of his Christian friends, he consented to accompany the agent of the church to the city, and to be guided by the after-leadings of Providence. At the close of three weeks he was unanimously called to become their pastor. He accepted the invitation, and in Aug. 1824, he was ordained and installed by the presbytery of New York.

Those who were present will long remember the interest of that day. From the meekness, and fearfulness and trembling with which he entered upon his labours, he seemed like the young David, fresh from the sheep-fold, come to conflict with the champion whose challenge had wrought fear in every heart. Sword, or spear, or helmet, or shield, of earthly mould, he had none. He came not in might, not in strength, but in weakness, trusting in the Lord. His situation was one of peculiar trial. The church was a novel experiment—it was in its infancy, and there were then no other churches likely to be very cordial with it, or its minister. But he was “not alone.” He found refuge in the secret chamber of the Most High. He there learned the true wisdom, to ask of God who giveth liberally. He sought his counsel, he followed his commands, he leaned upon his promises, and found his spirit. God owned his labours in a precious revival of religion, which added a goodly number to the church. Thus was it strengthened and built up. Here it was that Mr. Christmas was forming the character which, for a little while, so beautifully blazed among the churches—a star rich in heavenly radiance placed in this golden candlestick.

In 1825, he visited the United States, to raise subscriptions for the

purpose of completing the edifice in which his people worshipped. On the 28th of June, in the same year, he was married to Miss Louisa Jones, a lady of deep and exemplary piety, of elevated and noble mental endowments, of affectionate and humble spirit. In her he found a helper in the Lord. He appreciated her worth, he loved her excellence while living; and afterwards recurred to her short but luminous path, with endeared recollections and gratitude to God.

He continued his ministerial labours in Montreal until the summer of 1828, when he felt his strength so prostrated by severe and long-continued labours, that he was advised by a council of physicians to leave the place, as the only probable means of preserving his life. Reluctantly tearing himself from his beloved charge, he returned to New York, with his endeared family, a wife and two infant daughters. In January, 1829, he engaged a short time in an agency for the American Bible Society to New Orleans. His youngest child died in April, the other in May, and before the summer ended, his beloved partner also was taken to her rest.

While in this solitary and bereaved condition, he received an invitation from the Bowery Presbyterian Church in New York. With this he deemed it his duty to comply, and entered upon his charge in November, 1829. Although in feeble health, he seemed to forget that his bodily frame was already threatened with dissolution. He was in labours abundant; and, as though he was sometimes conscious that his opportunities of warning and entreating sinners would soon be over, he seized with alacrity every opening in providence to preach the gospel of the kingdom. His course, indeed, was very near its termination. He was permitted to remain in his new station little more than four months. On Tuesday the 9th of March, 1830, he was in the office of the New York