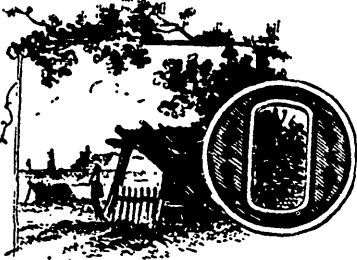


Editorial Articles.

OUR PIONEERS.

REV. E. J. SHERRILL.



NE of our best known and most respected pioneers, was the Rev. E. J. Sherrill, who spent all his ministerial life in Eaton,

Province of Quebec. He was a native of New England; and when retired through ill health, went back there, and died at Lee, Massachusetts, on 13th June, 1877.

If any of our readers can turn to the INDEPENDENT for October, 1877, they will find an article by Rev. Dr. Duff, giving some information respecting Mr. Sherrill. We have not been able to procure it, up to this date; and after waiting, in hopes to get dates and names, etc., furnished us, in quarters to which we had applied, we thought we would give for this number (probably the last under the present editorship), a short sketch of our deceased brother.

A Congregational church was first organized at Eaton Corner, in 1815. Mr. Taylor, the pastor, went over to the Church of England; and the organization fell to pieces. In 1835, a second effort was made, and a church organized. Rev. Mr. Sherrill preached to them during the winter of 1837-38; and in June 13, 1838, was ordained as pastor. After a time, a commodious frame church was erected; and families subscribing each for a "pew," at \$40; and so the church was built. Here Mr. Sherrill labored for nearly thirty-seven years; never having an adequate salary, and receiving exceedingly little actual money, except the small quarterly allowance from the (Home) Missionary Society. But he never complained. In 1856, the Congregational Union being held in Hamilton, Mr. Sherrill held the position of Chairman, by the votes of his brethren. In 1875, he resigned his charge on account of failing health; and removed to Massachusetts.

Mr. and Mrs. Sherrill had intended to devote

their lives to mission work in Africa. The Providence of God led them to Lower Canada; but the missionary spirit burned all the same for their whole lives. Mr. Sherrill kept up the monthly missionary meeting ("concert, as it was called in the New England nomenclature"); and the Eaton "collection" was always on hand for this work. We remember hearing Dr. Wilkes once speak of Eaton as a representative "Home Mission church." He said, "There is a little church that never has been strong, which has been sending members to Sherbrooke, to Montreal, and even to the far-distant Western States, and always keeping up its missionary meetings, and contributing to missionary funds; and yet must have help, year by year, to keep up its ordinances, and evangelize the neighborhood around."

Mr. Sherrill took every opportunity of advocating and helping the College, the French-Canadian work, Home Missions, the Bible Society, Temperance work, and every other good cause. We are told "His plans for prompt and systematic giving were well carried out by the deacons; so that contributions were always ready when the annual meetings were held." He was noted for keeping his appointments, even in the worst Lower Canada wintry weather; and whoever else might fail, he was always present at the "Association" meetings—often forty or fifty miles away. A journal he kept gives accounts of these meetings for thirty years. On the first Monday of each month, he met with the Methodist and Baptist ministers of the township regularly, for the term of his ministry. He loved singing; and encouraged it in the church, as well as in the day-schools around.

Under other circumstances he might have become a scientist or naturalist. Though the landscape, except in the matter of distant mountains and nearer waters, did not yield much material, he always could find unbounded admiration and study in the heavens above. A member of his family says, "A ride through Canadian woods with him was an education and a delight. The names of trees, and flowers, and birds, he knew; and he seldom came home from a drive without bringing a spring flower, or a trailing vine, or an autumn leaf, for our admiration." Romans xii, was a good illustration of his life; and says one, "the 12th verse was Mrs. Sherrill's way!"

Mr. Sherrill's portrait is "No. 14" in the "Union of 1868" (January number); but his children do not like it; it is "too severe and forbidding." He was a genial man; and his countenance generally showed it.