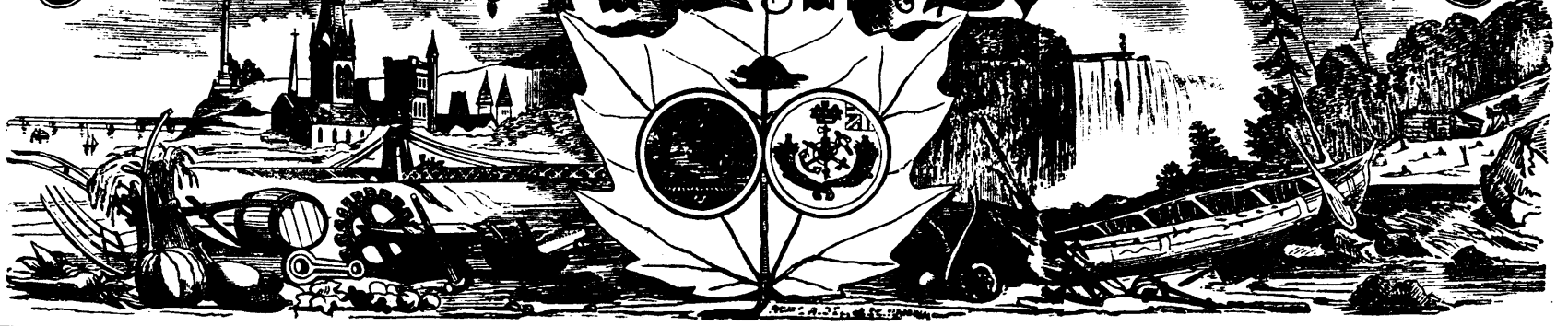


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*REV. EDWARD P. HAMMOND,
THE EVANGELIST.

REV. EDWARD PAYSON HAMMOND was born in Ellington, a quiet town in the valley of the Connecticut, Sept. 1st, 1831, but passed his boyhood and youth in Vermont, Ct. He was a child of prayer—consecrated to God by parental piety; especially was he nurtured with holy fidelity under the wing of maternal love. At the age of seventeen, he attended school at Southington, where there had been a powerful revival of religion, including in its sweep nearly all of the youth of the place.

Mr. Hammond, in his addresses, sometimes refers to the story of his conversion, and relates it thus:

'The first Sabbath of my stay in Southington was the communion. This was held between the services, and all who were not Christians were in the habit of going out. As I looked about, it seemed that all my friends and relatives, and new acquaintances were gathering around the table of the Lord. Among the few who passed out were none whom I knew.

'The thoughts of the judgment day flashed across my troubled mind. And the awful scenes of that final separation passed like a panorama before my view. On returning to my boarding-place that night, a lady handed me "James' Anxious Inquirer" to read. I glanced my eye hastily over a few of its pages, but thought it too dry a book for me, and I angrily threw it down. But this did not extract the arrow of conviction that had pierced my heart. I felt that I was a sinner, hastening on to the great judgment day unprepared. Little did I know of the earnest pleadings that were daily ascending from a mother's fond heart.

'Day by day my convictions deepened. My heart rebelled against God. I disputed his undivided claim to my heart. I was willing to give a portion of my affections, but I was not ready to give up all for Jesus.

'Yes, too proud to come as a lost, guilty, helpless, hell-deserving sinner to Jesus. As yet "ignorant of God's righteousness and going about to establish my own." For two long weeks I wept and prayed, and read my Bible, all the while "treading under foot the Son of God."

'During these dark days I read "James' Anxious Inquirer." I looked upon it no longer as a destroyer of my peace, but as a guide to happiness—to

*The 'Harvest Work of the Holy Spirit,' by Rev. P. C. Headley, author of 'Josephine and Women of the Bible,' &c., gives an interesting account of the labors of Rev. Edward Payson Hammond in Scotland and America.



REV. EDWARD PAYSON HAMMOND.

Christ and heaven. I used to study it by the hour with my Bible, looking out all the passages referred to. I thus saw more and more of my awfully deceitful and polluted heart.

'At first, it was thoughts of the judgment day, and the sight of the wicked going away into everlasting punishment, that alarmed me; but afterwards it was the sight of myself that alarmed me most.

'I then began to realize that reformation was not enough, that a great, an entire, a radical change must be experienced if I would enter heaven.

'It was then the pit of sin in my own heart alarmed me more than the pit of hell, into which I had been so lately gazing. The desperate enmity of my guilt before God I began to realize. My burden seemed heavier than I could bear. But another, a third sight I was called to gaze upon, which pierced my soul with a new and keener arrow. Godly sorrow. I was led by the Holy Spirit to look on Him whom my sins had "pierced, and mourn."

'It was then the blessed Holy Spirit, that had so long been striving with me, took of the things of Christ and showed them unto me—my blind eyes were opened. I saw that God was satisfied

with what Christ had done; that Jesus had paid the debt, and I had only to trust him for it all.

'I then knew the meaning of the promise, "A new heart will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you."

'As there was no revival at the time, and no preaching that I remember made any special impression on my mind, I can but feel that my conversion was the direct work of the Holy Spirit in answer to the wrestling, agonizing prayers of my dear mother.

'Some of the "fruits of the Spirit" were at once mine. 'Love, joy, peace,' filled my heart.

'I remember that I sat down and wrote mother that I had "found Jesus."

He subsequently completed his preparation for College at Phillips' Academy. There, as wherever he was after his conversion, God blessed his faithfulness to the conversion of souls in the Institution, and neighboring villages in which, with other students, he established meetings.

He entered Williams' College in 1854. Without neglecting his studies, as his instructors testify, he labored earnestly and successfully for the conversion of his classmates. Among them was the Rev. Henry Hopkins, the President's son,

now Chaplain in the army, with whom he attended meetings in Pownal; and together they went forth, 'weeping, bearing the precious seed, till they returned, bringing their sheaves with them.' The little company of seven or eight Christians was increased to a prosperous church. In the spring of 1855, he went in behalf of the American Sunday School Union, among the Alleghany mountains, and planted several Sunday schools during his vacations, which in some instances proved to be the nucleus of churches.

Prof. Chadbourne, one of the faculty of Williams, now of Bowdoin College, thus wrote to one of the associate Professors, of his pupil, after his return from Europe. We quote it, because it meets objections made to methods of labor which are strongly marked with the individuality of the worker.

'You will be glad to hear of our old friend and pupil, Mr. Hammond. He is now laboring in Bath, and I think it must be evident to all that the blessing of God attends his labors. He came to me last week to lend him a helping hand, as he is much exhausted with his continued labors. He is the same that he was when a student, except that he has gained wonderfully in power; the same good nature, the same fervent piety and zeal for the salvation of souls. He is not like other men, and it is folly for other men, to judge of him by their

standards. The only true test, and one it seems to me, that ought to satisfy every one, is, the great blessing that accompanies his labors. Some good men find fault, and wonder at his success, and think him over excited, but we who have known him so long, know that the same zeal stirred his heart when a Freshman in College, that stirs it now. God is making good his promise, to honor those that honor him. His success is wonderful, because God gives it to him! And before I dare to criticise, I must wait till I find a style of labor that God more signally blesses. I gave our dear brother all the advice I dared to give, with all the freedom of an old instructor towards his pupil; and would that those who are now my pupils, would receive advice, in the same spirit of meekness and thankfulness. But I did not dare advise him to try to change his style of labor, nor to be more like this or that distinguished minister, because, among all the names that are precious in the churches, I could think of none more successful in winning souls to Christ.

Mr. Hammond paid a visit to Scotland, we believe, for the purpose of attending College. While there he commenced a series of meetings, and was the means of doing much good, chiefly in the west of Scotland. The circumstances under which Mr. Ham-