

RETROSPECTIVE.

BY ELDER R. V. LYON.

To the Brethren in the faith of Jesus scattered in Britain and America, greeting. Dear Brethren: On October 21, 1837, I was 78 years old, and am reminded if this age lasts many years that I shall have passed the last mile stone in life's journey through this dark and cloudy day, then be laid aside to rest in the dust until Jesus our Life giver comes. Then I will expect to see you and all who shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection out from among the dead ones, to inherit the earth in its restored state. Sixty-three years ago I was immersed and united with the First Baptist Church in Southbridge, Mass., my native place. More than fifty-one years have rolled away since I began to preach, as the people called it. Forty-seven years ago the 6th of last June I was ordained according to the practice of the Baptist churches and with them I performed pastoral labor, also acted as an evangelist until Dec. 1st, 1845. In 1839 I obtained the lectures of the much loved by the good, elder Wm. Miller, which were an instrument in the hands of the Lord God of Israel, of leading me to embrace the coming of Jesus, and the setting up of the Kingdom of God on earth about 1843, a time never to be forgotten by me while memory lasts. Glory be to God for those days of a general deluge of the powers of God. In the fall of 1845 I was led to see that my all should be identified in the coming of Jesus and

all its kindred truths, as I might learn them from the Oracles of God, in order that I might be saved. Hence I laid all upon the altar, reputation and all I had, and said to the Lord, "Here I am, open the way and I will go and give the proclamation and the preparations necessary to be made, in order to stand amid the stupendous events of that day when Jesus will vacate the Father's throne and step into the car of glory, whose wheels shall roll in fire down the burning pathway of the heavens. And at once the way was opened, and I was invited by those who were looking for the coming of the Lord, and that without a dollar being pledged at my request. Never have I asked anyone to give or pay me a dollar for preaching. I have travelled in sixteen of the United States, and much in Canada, during the past thirty-five years for the purpose of giving the proclamation, the plan of human redemption—the Gospel. And to accomplish this noble work, and reach the ears of the multitude, I saw that it was my duty to use some of the principal that I had laid aside out of my own hard earnings. Therefore I ordered a tent to be made at a cost of a little less than \$200, and a carriage that cost me \$60, purchased me another horse and harness, and securing the services of two young men, sometimes an extra preacher, and paying them out of my own money. In this way I travelled four seasons in Massachusetts, Vermont, New York and Canada. God, in all those places where I held meetings, blessed my labors in a wonderful manner. At one of these