

REV. WILLIAM SHAW.

THE annals of missions contain many names which the Church of Christ will not suffer to be forgotten. From the days of Dr. Coke, whose remains are buried in the great deep, there have always been those in the Methodist Church who have hazarded their lives for the truth. Foremost in the honoured list stands the name of William Shaw. When his name was called in the British Conference as one who had just passed away, among other tributes that were mentioned to his memory, Dr. Punshon said : " Long before I knew anything of Christianity as a living power, Mr. Shaw was my ideal hero, although I had no conception of the grandeur of the work he was doing ; but it was not till I was brought into close connection with him, as the last superintendent under whom I travelled, that I was able to realise the symmetry of that full-orbed character. He had the sagacity of the statesman without the craft of the diplomatist. He had a mind too broad for prejudice, and a judgment too sober for passion. He was so practical as to be equal to all the needs of the present, and yet so much of an idealist as to believe in the progress of the times. He was of unbending integrity and of chivalrous honour, with a soul too noble for any littleness, and with an exquisite tender heart. He had a character so spotless that you might have been dazzled to look upon it but for the humility which, like a veil, at once concealed and revealed it : and when I look at this combination of excellences, I feel that it is rarely given to the Church to possess for so many years such an unostentatious and, withal, such a royal man."

This remarkable man, whose father belonged to the British army, was born at Glasgow, December 8th, 1798, and was therefore one of the few Scotchmen connected with the Methodist ministry. His youthful days were spent in the army, and it was the intention of his father to obtain for him a commission that he might become an officer, but the Lord had need of him, and he became a valiant soldier of the army of Immanuel. Soon after his conversion he began to preach. His early efforts were made in the barracks, where his juvenile appearance, together with his earnestness of manner and good reputation, always secured him an attentive audience.