

THE CHRISTIAN SENTINEL.

I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved.—HAB. ii. 1.

Rev. A. H. BURWELL, Editor.]

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FOR THE CHRISTIAN SENTINEL.

NOTICES OF A SERMON PREACHED AT THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE
REV. ROBERT ADDISON, RECTOR OF NIAGARA, U. C.

(Concluded from last week.)

In the Month of May 1792, Mr. Addison arrived in this parish with his family, having been nearly a year by the way, and exposed during that long period to much trouble, fatigue, and expence. I need hardly mention from this place the state of the Province in 1792, and the numerous privations which a person of respectability coming from England had at that time to suffer. But in addition to the severe trial of separating from all he loved—from that refined state of society in which he had lived, and all those comforts of civilized life to which he had been accustomed, our friend discovered soon after his arrival an unwillingness on the part of those who had invited him, and indeed been the cause of his coming into the Province, to comply with their engagements: so that but for his private resources, in addition to his other difficulties he would have had all the horrors of the most abject poverty to contend with. His whole income for the first five years was the small pittance of £50 per annum, allowed by the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts. This was the more unfortunate, as it made a deep impression on his susceptible mind, and forced him so to interfere with his private resources as to involve him in pecuniary difficulties from which he was never wholly free.

In 1793 he was called upon by the Society to visit the Indians at the Grand River, a service which he performed with great zeal and profit to the Six Nations. So much was his heart in the work, that he continued to discharge it most assiduously for nearly thirty years, till age and infirmity rendered it difficult for him to travel so great a distance from his residence, and till another clergyman was settled at the head of the Lake, who could perform the duty with much less inconvenience. So much was the Society pleased with his manner of performing this duty to the Indians, that after they relieved him they continued the small allowance which had been annually made him, as a mark of their approbation.

From the commencement of the Legislature in this Province, after the division of the Colony of Quebec into Lower and Upper Canada, Mr. Addison was Chaplain of the House of Assembly, and here also he afforded so great satisfaction, that a pension was assigned him of £50 per annum, which he enjoyed for several years, besides the ordinary salary attached to the office.

The tenor of Mr. Addison's life was so uniform, that little occurred of the nature of incident to furnish materials for an extended Biography; but while health and strength remained, every day was filled with useful exertion; and this usefulness was experienced in a great variety of ways. His early habits of instructing youth in the different branches of education, gave him great facility in communicating knowledge; and the frankness and candour with which he entered into the feelings and views of youth never failed to win their attention, and thus to afford him the most favourable opportunity of impressing upon their minds the most important truths.

On the subject of public instruction, both religious and scientific, he was always anxious. In a letter written to me in 1815, he says, "To a considerate person coming from Great Britain, the Province of Upper Canada must appear sadly destitute of religious instruction. There every parish has its Church and Minister, and

the man who neglects to attend the public worship is considered an infidel, and is generally held in abhorrence.

"In this country very little attention is paid to the Sabbath in those places where there is no regular service, and, as may be expected, it is mostly a day of idleness and dissipation. The settlers, after becoming accustomed to the back settlements, and to the want of religious worship, run gradually to lose their relish for holy things, and to forget the few impressions which had been made upon their hearts in their early years.

"It is nevertheless wise not to enforce attention to public worship by penalties: men must be led, not driven, to embrace the pure doctrines of Christianity; and I know no better way of doing this than by placing regular and valuable ministers in every well-settled neighbourhood—and this should be done without making it a matter of expence to the settlers.

"He proceeds to say, that the establishment of a College would be of great service in qualifying young men for the various stations of life—for the professions generally, and especially for the office of Parish Prie's. Those educated at such Seminaries he said would be better suited to fulfil the important duties of that station than most of those who could be procured from Britain." These great objects, the moral and religious education of the people, he never lost sight of; and he was at all times pleased to give his best assistance and advice in order to promote them. His was that truly Catholic spirit which embraced all mankind, while he held firm his own principles,—a charity which confined not itself to sects and divisions, but was ever on the alert to relieve distress, whether of the body or the mind. At the same time his benevolent exertions were guided by a firmness and discretion which insured the best effects.

As Mr. Addison was ready to embrace every opportunity which presented itself of advancing individuals or of promoting the advantage of the community of which he was a member, so he took particular interest in the plans that have been devised by Christian benevolence for diffusing the knowledge of the Gospel throughout the world. He was the first to propose the establishment of a Bible and Prayer Book Society, and was of essential service in promoting its usefulness. At first, with the view of including all denominations, it confined its operations to the distribution of the Bible only; but afterwards, finding the support to arise principally from his own people, the Prayer Book was added. To the arrangements necessary for making the institution efficient, and to the discovery of those who were destitute of the means of acquiring religious knowledge, he devoted much of his time.

Amidst many vicissitudes and severe afflictions, Mr. Addison exhibited the happy influence of religion upon his own heart; in bearing his trials with Christian resignation, and exhibiting a rare example of Christian forbearance.

His discourses were well adapted to comfort and instruct his hearers, and to excite in their breasts the most serious thoughts in the momentous concerns of eternity. His own views of divine revelation were such as have for ages been entertained by the most devout and reflecting minds. He considered the Scriptures to be the only source from which, with the assistance of the Holy Spirit and the diligent exertion of our mental faculties, we can derive that knowledge of the Divine will which is necessary to the salvation of our souls. He loved and admired the Book of Common Prayer, composed almost wholly of the sublime language of Revelation, and exhibiting in the most impressive manner the truths of the Gospel. He believed, as the Bible declares, that man is fallen, and no longer capable in the present life of that perfect obedience to