

THE CHRISTIAN OBSERVER.

This number closes the first volume of *The Christian Observer*. At the commencement of our labours, we stated the necessity which there was for adopting the prepayment system. We have adhered as far as we possibly could to this plan, and it has proved the bulwark of our safety. We are satisfied, that on no other principle would it be prudent to proceed hereafter. To give credit, might, indeed, increase greatly our subscription list; but it would be at the expense of the Paper's existence—we have the fullest evidence that it could not be sustained on such a principle. Our subscribers, then, are requested to take notice that all who wish to continue taking the paper, through the ensuing volume, and who will pay for it on the reception of the first, or, at farthest, the second number will be understood to indicate such an intention by silence; those who wish to discontinue will have the goodness to inform us of the fact, by post, immediately; in order that we may be enabled to make such arrangements with our printer as changes may render necessary. All ministers of the gospel acting as agents for the paper, or any brother, (in a church where they have no pastor,) acting thus, shall receive their own copy gratis. Such are requested to send us the names of new subscribers before the first day of January next, and opposite their own names to write—"Agent."

Another year may see a weekly among us, which will prove highly satisfactory to many of our brethren; in the mean time, let us circulate as widely as possible, the *Observer* in its present form. While we repudiate the idea of organship, we are willing—yea, anxious, to do our part in keeping such truth before the churches, as shall tend to promote harmony and love, and build up our readers in the faith of the gospel.

JAMES PYPHER,
A. T. MCGORD.

The following papers have been returned by the Post Office:—

E. Phelps, *Aylmer*.
Jacob Miller, Sr., *Markham*.
Wm. McKee, *Peterboro'*.
Miss C. Boyle, *Stouffville*.
James Page, *Smithville*.
Thos. Morrison, *St. Catharines*.
D. Driver, *Sharon*.

If the subscribers have changed their residences they will please inform us, so as the papers may be sent to the proper address.

INCREASE OF A LARGE CHURCH.—The First African Baptist church in Lexington, Ky., Rev. London Ferrell, pastor, has 1,548 members, of whom 77 were baptized during the year ending August 1, 1851.

"THOU, GOD, SEEST ME."—A Father and his son went out together to steal corn. When they came to the field, the father climbed upon the fence, and looked carefully around that no eye might see him. He then began to fill his bag with corn. "Father," said the boy, "there is one direction in which you did not look." "Ah, my son," replied the father, "and where is that?" "Oh, father you did not look up." The man returned home

with an empty bag and a stricken conscience. There is ONE whose presence is more to be feared than a thousand human witnesses. There is ONE from whose eye the darkness hideth not. The blood and righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ alone can cover sin in the day of his fierce anger. This is the sinner's refuge.—*American Messenger*.

MARRIED.

In Brantford, C. W., on the 26th Oct., by the Rev. Thos. L. Davidson, Mr. J. Plowman to Mrs. Mary J. Porter, both of Brantford.

By the same, Nov. 3, at Kerby's Inn, Burford, Mr. George Hardy, of Brantford, to Miss Mary Marshall, of Norwich.

By the same, in Brantford, on the 11th ult., Mr. John Cook, of Brantford, to Miss Eliza Cheever of Wellington Square, county of Halton.

DIED.

DEACON JOSHUA MILLER, MARKHAM, C. W.

Died at his residence in Markham, on the morning of Tuesday, Nov. 11, 1851, Deacon Joshua Miller, aged 76 years.

The deceased was born Jan. 1st, 1775, at Ballston Springs, contiguous to the far-famed Springs, of Saratoga, Saratogo Co., N. Y., in which place he lived until the year 1798, when he was married to Elisabeth Darrer; shortly after which he removed, with his family, to Canada, and settled at Lundy's Lane, in the Niagara District, where he resided for a number of years. In 1801, he removed with his family, from Lundy's Lane to the newly surveyed township of Markham, which was then a wild and trackless desert, where the wolf and the bear prowled in search of their prey, and where the drowsy bat and the hooting owl had for ages found a safe retreat. In this new and unsettled tract of country he lived for about eight years ere his eyes were ever blest with the sight of "the beautiful feet of those who bring glad tidings." In 1809, however, it pleased the Lord of the harvest to send among the settlers of this township, who were by this time somewhat numerous, a herald of salvation in the person of Elder Elijah Bentley, who preached in "this wilderness" the grace that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. The Lord was with his servant and owned his labours by crowning them with success; and making them instrumental in bringing the subject of this notice, and a godly number of others to Jesus, who were baptized by him and formed into a gospel church of the Regular Baptist order, believing what is usually termed "moderate Calvinism." Immediately after the formation of the church in 1809, brother Miller was chosen by the church to fill the deacon's office, which office he retained till his decease, a period of 42 years, during which time he discharged the duties of the deaconate with credit to himself, and benefit to the church, so "purchasing to himself a good degree and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus."

On the 11th April, 1817, he was called to experience a severe loss by the sudden and untimely death of his son Robert, a fine lad of 16 years of age, who was killed by the falling of a tree, and on the 15th March, 1823, the Lord again bereaved him by taking from him his dear and much-loved companion, who had born with him the burden and heat of the day, in bringing up a large family of small children in a new country, where hardship and privation was often their lot. She was a mother in Israel, and died full of faith and hope in the Saviour.

This, to the widowed survivor, was indeed a great affliction, yet he bore it with Christian fortitude and resignation, as coming from the hand of that "God who gave and who had taken away." For many a weary year had they trodden together in clearing and cultivating the forest, during which time she had borne him eleven children, five of whom are now with their parents in the

spirit world. On the 4th May, 1824, he was united in marriage to Rachel Lundy, by whom he had three children, who with their widowed mother are now among the surviving mourners. Time and space prevent us in this short obituary from noticing in full the traits of his Christian character; this, however, is the less necessary here, as a more extended memoir of this "old disciple," and venerable Baptist pioneer will shortly be issued from the press. Suffice it here to say, that he was sound in faith, in charity, and in doctrine, constant in the discharge of his Christian duties, ardent in his attachment to the people of God, especially to the ministers of the gospel, to whom his house was ever a home, and whom he loved for their works' sake. His personal piety was of a deep and active character, his conversation was emphatically in heaven: During the long and protracted period of his sufferings he was calm, resigned, and patient; never was a murmuring expression heard from his lips.

Just before his death, on being placed in his chair, and asked to lean back so as to repose himself, he said: "Ah! I shall soon lean on the arm of my beloved." When asked whether he still felt Jesus to be precious to his soul he replied with an earnestness and a pathos which spoke the feelings of a full soul, and will not be soon forgotten by those who stood by him. "Oh yes! Oh yes! Oh yes! blessed Jesus! blessed Jesus! blessed Jesus!" and shortly afterwards expired without a struggle or a groan. His end was peace, and holy triumph in Christ. The aged pilgrim was laid in his clayey bed, on Thursday, November the 13th ultimo. His funeral sermon was preached in Zion Chapel, by his former pastor, the Rev. T. L. Davidson, from John xi. 25, 26.

"I looked upon the righteous man,
And saw his parting breath,
Without a struggle or a sigh,
Serenely yield to death.

There was no anguish on his brow,
Or terror in his eye;
The spoiler aim'd a fatal dart,
But lost the victory."

—Communicated.

At the residence of his son-in-law, the Rev. J. Scott, the Rector of Dunham, Mr. Thomas Hewson, Sen., formerly from the County of Yorkshire, England. He was among the earliest emigrants from England, who settled in the neighbourhood of Lacolle, where he has resided between thirty and forty years, esteemed and respected by all for his charitable benevolence, his uniform kindness, and the integrity of his character.

JUST RECEIVED,

A LARGE ASSORTMENT of the Publications of the London Religious Tract Society, including several New Works.

Sabbath School Libraries and Requisites, from London and Philadelphia.

Bibles and Testaments, with the metrical version of the Psalms and Paraphrases, from Edinburgh.

The whole of the above are for sale at the Depository of the Upper Canada Tract Society, upon the most reasonable terms.

[By Order of the Committee.]

JAMES CARLES,

Depository.

47, Yonge Street,
Toronto, July 26, 1851.

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JAMES PYPHER;

Pastor of the Bond Street Baptist Church, Editor.