

for from boyhood. But it was some little time yet before he saw clearly the beautiful harmony of justice and mercy in the mediatorship of Christ. He who had begun the good work in our friend, however, continued to lead him on from step to step till he became a Christian in every sense of the word—devoting himself wholly to the service of his Master, and enjoying an almost unclouded sky of hope to the end. After having been brought to the full light that the Lord alone was his “Righteousness and Strength,” his assurance was so complete that he could say at a comparatively advanced period of his life—“from that day to this, thanks be to God, I do not know that, for half an hour, I have had any serious doubts about my acceptance in the Beloved.” His changed views of the gospel also led to a change in his views of Church Order, which resulted in his joining the Congregational Church in Aberdeen, that had been just vacated by Dr. Philip. He was soon after elected to the diaconate, and served honourably in that office until he emigrated to America, in 1838, at the same time, being very active in Sabbath school work, also in preaching in private houses and even barns. When he came to this country, he bought a farm which was wrought by his family; but he was employed himself in teaching, while his Sabbaths were mostly spent in preaching gratuitously at different stations in the neighbouring townships, as well as in the villages of Elora and Salem near his home. Did space permit, it would be interesting to mention cases that occurred both in Scotland and in Canada, where the Divine seal was set in a striking manner to his ministrations. Aware that a considerable prejudice existed against lay preaching, he consented to receive ordination. There lies before us a certificate signed by “John Josiah Brain, Pastor;” “Charles Julius Mickle and Edward Passmore, Deacons,” of the Guelph Congregational Church, dated March 5, 1848, which contains a unanimous resolution of this church (to which Mr. M. then belonged), commending him to the work of the ministry; but, for some unknown reason, he was not publicly ordained until Jan. 31, 1850, nearly two years after, when the “laying

on of hands” was solemnly performed at Eramosa, by Rev’d. W. Clarke, H. Denny, John Durrant, R. Robinson, and Stephen King. He continued to exercise his gift so long as his strength permitted; and when he could not travel out, he held a service for some time at his own residence.

Our departed brother was a man of refined taste, an accomplished musician, and in his early life a teacher of music; he was a close student, a careful thinker, and a large reader: but above all, a most sincere and devout Christian. Reverence for God and for Divine things marked his whole character. All his habits and appearance betokened the minister. Owen’s works were his delight, and Owen’s theology was his pattern; though he acknowledged no human master. The Bible was his principal study; and he had been in the practice of committing it to memory to such an extent that he could repeat at least nearly all of the New Testament. This precious store, together with a large number of rich hymns which he had memorized in a similar manner, were rich food for his soul in his latter years of infirmity, but especially during his last brief illness. He has left behind him seven children, all the heads of respectable families, with whom his memory is fragrant. E. B.

AGASSIZ.

This great scientist and good Christian who has just gone, was of French blood, but of Swiss birth; a descendant of the Huguenots, and belonging to a family which for six generations has been headed by clergymen in regular succession. His parents purposed educating him for the church, but he chose the paths of science, which he explored with all the fidelity of faith. After distinguishing himself in Europe he came to America, where he lived until called to a higher and holier life. In this new world he occupied professorships in the highest seats of learning, while he roamed over the wide continent in every direction, prosecuting his studies and gathering his trophies.—ED.