

but in the days of their youth, "while it is called to-day," to "lay hold of the hope set before them" in the Gospel. They also remember with pleasure his fervent and animated supplications in the family, especially on Sabbath mornings, for a blessing on a preached gospel, and on missionary labors. He was contemporary with the formation of the various missionary and philanthropic institutions which the revival of religion and the increase of knowledge produced in the end of the last and beginning of the present century, and in all of them, but especially the "Bible," "Religious Tract," "London Missionary," and "Anti-Slavery" Societies, he took deep, and, when opportunity offered, active interest.

He came to Canada with his family in 1832, and settled at once in Guelph, attracted thither by friends who had preceded him. The public means of grace being then but scanty, and in many respects unsatisfactory, it was not long before efforts were put forth which brought into existence a Congregational church, of which the present one is the continuation. The names of Mr. and Mrs. Hodgskin were amongst the number with which the roll of membership was formed, and continued on it, with one most reluctant interruption, until the day of their death. During this period, until age and infirmity unfitted him for active service, he steadfastly sought the honor of the Redeemer by endeavouring to promote the prosperity of the church, and since retiring from office he ceased not to manifest a lively interest in all that affected its welfare.

During the last two years, besides being reminded by age and increasing infirmities of his approaching change, he was twice brought by illness to face the near prospect of dissolution; and on these and other occasions his expressions of perfect acquiescence and deep humility, along with simple faith in the great atoning sacrifice, and calm assurance of hope, were very precious. He recovered, however, from both these attacks, and was permitted fully to live out his days, until, by a gradual cessation of the vital energies, he "fell asleep, and was gathered to his fathers." During his latter weeks and months, he frequently remarked that his feebleness affected his thoughts and apprehensions of spiritual things. Yet his utterances from time to time shewed that he felt no depression of spirit, but that his eye was still fixed on "the prize of his high calling of God in Christ Jesus." He had been accustomed thro' life to appropriate, for the encouragement both of himself and his children, the words of the Psalmist, "The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me," and the same confidence sustained him now. He frequently quoted, in a manner which shewed his lively appreciation of them, the verses beginning: "O, the sweet wonders of that cross;" "I would for ever speak his name;" and "How sweet the name of Jesus sounds," while the portions of Scripture most in his mind were those which set forth the love and compassion of our "merciful and faithful High Priest," and the Psalms in which God is addressed as our refuge and portion.

He had from time to time, during his last weeks upon earth, gone thro' what both felt to be a last interview, with one and another of his friends, and these leave-takings ended, with the exception of his own family, with a visit from his pastor but a few days before his departure. He recognized him with pleasure on his arrival, but afterwards seemed unconscious of his presence until roused by being told that he was going. when he looked up and exclaimed, "Well, sir, we shall meet again. There shall we see His face, and never, never sin."

During his last few days his capability of utterance was much diminished, but he occasionally showed that the eye of faith was not darkened, until at length, in the closing scene, his bodily eyes opened to a final look upon earthly things, and then his spirit ascended "to God who gave it"—to "his Father and our Father, to his God and our God."

The event was improved in a funeral discourse, by the Rev. W. F. Clarke, on Sabbath evening, Sept. 18th, from Deut. 33, 27.—*Com.*