

tionate memory of his sterling character and many benefactions. How suggestive it is of this fast fleeting life that two of these—the Rev. Dr. Castle and the Hon. John Macdonald—have themselves since been called to follow him whose praises they spoke at that service. Only our chairman of to-night—Dr. Rand—is left to us of the three who that night led our thoughts. Long may the survivor be spared to continue that service in the development of this institution which has already been so fruitful.

Mr. McMaster's conversion took place in childhood—at the age of ten. He became a member of the March-street church, Toronto, at an early period in its history. From that day to the day of his death, through sunshine and shadow, he gave his adhesion and support to Baptist interests in Toronto and elsewhere in his adopted country. Many may have thought him dull in not perceiving that his business and social welfare would have been greatly promoted by his union with one of the larger and stronger bodies. It is safe to assume that such a thought never even crossed his mind. To quote the language of Dr. Castle on the occasion referred to, "In his early life the denomination to which he belonged was in these Provinces an obscure one. But with a fidelity which never faltered he identified himself most thoroughly with the people who held truth as he understood truth." Such has ever been the record of the lives of highest achievement and service. Ready facility in adjusting one's self to changing currents may give a temporary appearance of success, but the life that would achieve permanent results must have firm anchorage.

Not only was William McMaster content to "abide with his own people" and to share their gains and losses, but he had a strong faith in the value of the message to humanity which had been entrusted to their hands. Though never a sanguine man, he always believed that the Baptists were "a people of destiny;" he was fond of calling them a "peculiar people."

It seems not out of place here to urge that unless we have the same deep conviction that we are the chosen bearers of a vital message from God to humanity, we are without warrant for our separate denominational existence. Unless we have a distinct message that the world needs, let us disband our organi-