

Thus suddenly and unexpectedly closed, in the prime of manhood, the earthly career of one of the most devoted and useful men in the Baptist body. He had rare qualities of head and heart that eminently fitted him for the important sphere to which God had called him, and in which he served to the best of his ability. In his own quiet way he has rendered excellent service to our churches, and has done more than many of us have any idea of to advance their interests. He was a true, loyal, unswerving, uncompromising Baptist, and was not ashamed to let it be known. When one got to know him one would be impressed with his striking personality. Let us fix our attention upon the man, and endeavour to trace some of the distinguishing traits of his character.

In the first place he was preëminently holy. All who knew him were impressed with his likeness to the Saviour, and with the thoroughness and beauty of his religious principles. He lived constantly in fellowship with God. He threw every avenue of his nature open to the incoming and indwelling of the Holy Ghost. He was careful to do nothing that would grieve the Divine Guest or drive Him away. Knowing well the danger of neglecting to cultivate one's own spiritual life, in efforts to benefit other men, he paid strict attention to the culture of his soul. That was one of the first considerations with him. He believed that he could be of more service to others if he attended well to the upbuilding of his own character. He longed to become more and more like Jesus so that his life, as well as his words, would recommend Him to the unsaved. One of the last entries in his diary, written a few days before his death, is: "Oh for a more intimate fellowship with Jesus; this is the great need of all missionary workers." Was it not most blessed in this world in which there is so much formality, hypocrisy, worldliness and sin, to come into touch with a man who had so much of Jesus in his composition? Is it any wonder that he was so useful in the Master's vineyard, and so much loved by all who had the privilege of being associated with him in Christian service?

Then he had a purpose in life. It was not that of the miser who lives for gold, or of the worldling who lives for pleasure, or of the craven-hearted professor who lives for popularity or ease. His purpose was preëminently godly, and into the Master's ser-