

# THE CHRISTIAN SENTINEL.

I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved.—Hab. ii. 1.

Rev. A. H. BURWELL, Editor.]

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## FOR THE CHRISTIAN SENTINEL.

NOTICES OF A SERMON PREACHED AT THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE  
REV. ROBERT ADDISON, RECTOR OF NIAGARA, U. C.

Niagara, 10th Jan. 1830.

Sir,

It appears to me that biographical notices of eminent members of our Church belonging to the Canadas, who have passed to their reward, might diversify your paper, and both instruct and entertain your readers. In this belief I now send you some account of the funeral sermon preached at the interment of the Rev. Robert Addison, on the 9th of October 1829, by the Archdeacon of York. The preacher took his text from 2 Cor. iv. 7. "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels."

The death of good men is a just ground of sorrow, especially when they are placed in public stations. They are burning lamps, giving light and direction to their brethren around them. An event of this kind hath called together this afflicted assembly. A cedar has fallen—a brilliant star has been removed from our horizon; and although full of days and attended with bright and effectual sources of comfort, yet he leaves behind him many sorrowing. The departure of the oldest clergyman of the Established Church, who hath for nearly forty years unfolded the banner of the cross to this neighbourhood, and who had seen the population from a few scattered families grow up to a great multitude, is no common event. But death spares no man. Your fathers, where are they? And the prophets, do they live for ever? Nor are ministers of the New Testament, though employed in a more excellent ministry, exempted from the dominion of death. Apostles as well as prophets must obey his imperious call; for we have this treasure in earthen vessels. In speaking from these words the Archdeacon directed the attention of his hearers, First, to the Ministry and dispensation of the Gospel. Secondly, to the infirmity of those to whom the treasure is intrusted—Earthen Vessels.

First. It was the purpose of our blessed Redeemer, in promulgating the Gospel, to form a Church from among all nations, continually increasing from age to age till the final judgment, at which period it is to extend over the whole world, and unite its followers in one pure spiritual and eternal family in the kingdom of heaven. To forward this mighty design, our Lord appointed the twelve Apostles, the seventy Disciples, and the Prophets of the New Testament, whose ministry was to be supplied by a constant succession of Pastors and Teachers set apart and qualified to be Ministers of Christ and Stewards of the mysteries of God. Their office is of infinite importance. To them it belongs to deliver the whole council of God. By their zeal and fidelity Christianity was first established, and by the same qualifications must Christian knowledge be preserved, and Christian men continue to be edified. They are to proclaim that the Gospel is the great remedy ordained of God for healing the disorders introduced by sin into the world. They are the Shepherds of his flock—labourers together with God—instruments by whom he communicates spiritual health to their fellow-sinners, as he healed the sick by the hands of His Apostles and Prophets. And wherever the Gospel is faithfully delivered, God's blessing may be expected to attend it. Sinners will be awakened—grace imparted—faith strengthened—hope enlivened—love to God and cheerful obedience to his law produced; and a spirit of benevolence and charity to man diffused.

To the Ministers of the New Covenant are intrusted the honor of Christ and the glory of the Gospel. It is by their preaching

that the name of Christ is made known, and his glory celebrated. They are to dwell upon his mighty power, and his unbounded grace; upon the dignity of his person, and the merits of his death. Thus will Christ be honored and obeyed—the influence of the Holy Spirit will be sought; God will be worshipped through a Mediator, and be more and more praised and magnified for his mercy in the work of redemption. Such is the rich treasure put into earthen vessels, &c. The preacher then went into the dispensation, that the Minister's principal work is to preach and manifest the savour of divine knowledge to others—to spread that saving light to those who sit in darkness, and to be pillars of truth, not only for the propagation but defence of the Gospel; at all times ready to contend for the faith once delivered to the Saints. It is their duty to feed the lambs as well as the sheep of Christ; to be instant in season and out of season; to be skilful and experienced in the divine art of teaching and applying their instructions to the different capacities of their hearers, and keeping back nothing that is profitable for them; but with all faithfulness and diligence, both in public and private, deliver the whole counsel of God, and so keep themselves pure from the blood of all.

It is impossible for Ministers to have a warm sense of the importance of the truths of the Gospel upon their own hearts, without speaking of them with energy and life to others. With holy vehemency, therefore, they pluck sinners as brands out of the burning, and by the force of earnest entreaty and solicitation compel them to come in and accept the offer of that nuptial feast, which is provided for them in the kingdom of heaven, &c. We can only spare room for one extract from the second part of this discourse, as we are anxious to give the whole of the Biographical Sketch with which it concludes. After remarking that this treasure is committed to frail mortals—not to angels, who, strangers to human infirmities and human passions, could not enter into our feelings or comprehend our trials, temptations and weaknesses, the Preacher says, Ministers are earthen vessels, they are poor frail mortal creatures, though intrusted for a time with the precious treasure of divine light and grace, and we little know how soon an unforeseen distemper or other accident may dash them in pieces. But if they can behold any considerable success of their ministerial labours in the conversion of souls to God, and in the edification of the living members of Christ's body the Church, their separation from their flocks, however painful to the flock, will yet be sweet and delightful to their souls. For if there be joy among the angels of heaven upon the repentance of one sinner, how much more reason will these ministers have to rejoice, whom God honors to be the instruments of bringing many to salvation? who behold in their flocks the work of faith, the labour of love, and the patience of hope successfully advancing, and who can say with the blessed Apostle to his beloved Thessalonians: You are our glory and our joy. The Prophets live not for ever; but blessed are they who appear in the presence of their Divine Master, and bring their sheaves with them.

These observations have been suggested by the solemn occurrence which has happened to this parish. Your beloved Pastor has been called hence to receive his reward; and though my great inability, a very short notice, and a deficiency of memoranda of his early years prevent me from presenting to you such an account of his life as a person in every way so estimable deserves, it is nevertheless hoped that sufficient will be said to awaken in your minds the most affectionate remembrance.

Robert Addison was born of respectable parents in the north of England, and after passing through the ordinary branches of study