

mittent efforts have been made by some of our churches in the larger cities by the employment of "Bible Women." That is good as far as it goes, but apart from the spasmodic character of the work that is far from all that is wanted; these need pecuniary support, but the Woman-Deacon, unpaid as the Man-Deacon, might, if wisely chosen, be a blessing indeed. We commend this subject to the churches.

SAMUEL MORLEY.

A brief note in a recent number of the *INDEPENDENT* stated that Samuel Morley was dead. It would not be right however to let so eminent a man, a man so thoroughly identified with Congregationalism, pass away without a fuller notice.

Forty years ago, or thereabout, we were sitting in the school room of the Weigh House chapel, at a church meeting convened for the special purpose of electing two deacons. After some preliminary talk the pastor, Thomas Binney, who was in the chair, rose and said with his usual good natured dictatorialness, "I am going to have Mr. Samuel Morley for my deacon, you may choose whom you please." The members present smiled, but as a matter of course, they also chose Mr. Morley. He was not present at that meeting but he accepted the position, the first office which he held in any church, we believe. Circumstances of a special character partly connected with the church and partly with business threw us often, during succeeding years, into the company of Mr. Morley, and we learned to esteem him very highly; the same traits of character were manifest then that have been noted in the many sketches of him that have appeared in English papers—narrow in his views as some have said, he was as broad as the Bible itself; stern he could be, and unyielding, yet he had a heart of tenderness; he followed his own convictions, yet he respected the honest convictions of those who differed from him; he had not a particle of meanness in his nature, but large-hearted and large-souled, he was ever ready to give to every object that he thought worthy, that had any sort of claim upon his principles or sympathies. More than thirty years have passed since in his own office we shook hands and said "good-bye." We did not know at the time, nor for several years later—perhaps it was as well that we did not—that he was prepared then, had we hinted at such a thing, to make us an offer that would in all probability have bound us to the old land for life. Once, only, have we met him since then. It was at a breakfast given by the founder and president of the Young Men's Christian Association, in the rooms of the Association, Aldersgate st., to the American delegates

to the Sunday school centenary held in London during 1880. Short speeches of a pleasant character were the order of the morning, and Mr. Morley spoke in reply to some remarks which fell from one of the American friends, in which with a jesting earnestness, he suggested that on their return the delegates should endeavor to impress on their government the propriety of returning to Great Britain all that portion of the Geneva award in the "Alabama" matter for which they were unable to find any just claimants. At the close of the meeting we spoke to him in the midst of a crowd—it could only be for a moment, he had an engagement that took him away to a parliamentary committee if we mistake not—his recognition was prompt, greeting very cordial, and few words of the kindest character.

It was noted in the *INDEPENDENT* a few issues back that the Congregational Union of England and Wales had done itself the honor to elect Mr. Morley as its Chairman for the next annual meeting. We believe that it has only once before chosen a layman, the peace-loving and highly honoured Henry Richards, to that position. Mr. Morley's failing health compelled him to decline the duties, and his speedy death confirms his own estimate of his position.

Mr. Morley was born in London in the year 1809 and so was 77 years of age; his father, John Morley, with his brother Richard had a warehouse on Wood st. Cheapside, dealing in Nottingham goods. It was thought at one time that Samuel would probably enter the ministry, but his choice was business, and in that sphere he has once more shown us what a sanctified business man can do: is it not possible that his work has been greater and more far reaching than if "Rev." had been prefixed to his name, and no one doubts today, we suppose, that the decision to follow a business life was under the guidance of the Spirit of God. Mr. Morley did not enter Parliament until 1865, his 56th year, and retired in 1885. He was offered a baronetcy some years back, and Mr. Gladstone would have made him a peer, but with the spirit of the liberal leader himself he did not desire to be anything more than one of the people. Mr. Morley died Sept. 4th, (not August, as by a slip of the pen was stated formerly,) and was buried in Abney Park Cemetery, where the old and much loved pastor, Thos. Binney, was laid to rest; where Dr. Watts, and where a host of Congregational worthies sleep until the moment when the natural shall put on the spiritual at the appearing of the Lord.

The *Nonconformist*, as might be expected, has a lengthened sketch of this prince among men and merchants, two sketches in fact, one of his life, and one more especially of his character. We can only with our limited space give brief extracts, but we are sure that our