

## The Christian Helper.

A BAPTIST MONTHLY JOURNAL.

"Not for that we have doubtless over your faith, but are helpers of your joy." II. Cor. 1: 34.

Vol. II. SEPT. 15, 1878. No. 5.

### DIED.

At Woodstock, Ont., on Wednesday the 4th of September, ROBERT ALEXANDER FYFE, D.D., Principal of the Canadian Literary Institute, in the 62nd year of his age.

The honoured servant of Christ whose death has cast a gloom over the whole Baptist brotherhood of these provinces deserves more than a passing notice. We purpose, therefore, making the next number (that for October) a *memorial* one. Besides an excellent photo engraving of Dr. Fyfe, which is being made for us in New York, we purpose giving a full sketch of his life and labours, a verbatim report of the funeral services, and a mass of other collected information bearing on his connection with the Institute and the Denomination generally. Any of our friends who may wish extra copies of the *memorial Helper* would do well to order them at once, as only a limited number will be published over and above our ordinary edition.

### TWO PICTURES AND A QUESTION.

LOOK ON THIS PICTURE :

It is an assembly of brethren who have come together to further the interests of the cause of Christ. Their object is one; their hearts are one. They are knit together in love. They consult, not for their own interest or honour, but for the glory of their divine Master; and they do it in their Master's spirit. Each one contributes all the intelligence and all the active power which he possesses. Each one is gratified with the talents and influence which belong to his brethren, for the same reason that he is thankful for his own. And if others are able, by their *superior* talents and influence, to contribute more than he, to that object which is nearest to his heart, the more is he gratified. No one in this assembly is the zealous advocate of any measure because he was the

first to propose it. And no one has such confidence in himself as to suppose that a measure must be right because it originated with him. No one is pertinacious or self-willed. The wisdom which reigns among them "is from above; and is pure, peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy." In this assembly all is candour and kindness. The inquiry is: What will please Christ? What will promote the prosperity of his kingdom? If on any subject the brethren for a time differ in judgment they still agree in feeling; and in the end are likely to agree in judgment too. Important measures, therefore, are carried, not by small majorities, but with great unanimity. Thus pursuing their purpose with brotherly love, and singleness of heart, and with earnest prayer for divine guidance, God graciously superintends their deliberations and crowns their labours with success.

NOW LOOK ON THIS :

An assembly professedly engaged in promoting the same cause, but among whom a *selfish* spirit prevails. Under ordinary circumstances a regard to reputation, or motives of policy, would preserve them from open disorder and lend to their proceedings some measure of respectability. But now when their business is specially important, and when circumstances are such as to try men's souls, and to require special efforts and self-denial; they soon shew what their ruling passions are. Being without any common affection to unite them, they have division and strife. Individuals strenuously oppose a measure, though altogether wise and judicious, because it is not calculated to gratify their personal feelings, or to promote their private or local interests. It is manifest from their transactions that they have lost sight of the great object which every Christian professes to seek. And as they do not truly aim to serve the Redeemer's cause their measures are not adapted to promote it. If the kingdom of Christ is in any degree advanced—if, indeed, it is not essentially injured—it will be owing to the over-ruling providence of God which brings good out of evil.

WHICH SHALL IT BE ?

In a short time the Convention will as-

semble in Brantford. It will meet under circumstances of unusual gravity. It will have to deal with questions of vast importance. That we have reached a crisis in our history as a denomination must be apparent to every one; and that the deliverance of our missionary and educational enterprises from their present difficulties, together with our general prosperity for many years to come, greatly depends upon the results which shall be reached at our October gathering cannot be denied. This, then, is our question—we ask it with anxiety—Which of our two pictures shall prove to be a faithful representation of that gathering? God grant it may be the first! Let us all strive to make it so.

### DEFINITENESS OF PURPOSE.

The candidates for honours in the Grecian games were accustomed, on the eve of the decisive struggle, to go through the movements which were soon to determine their victory or defeat. Those who were to contend in the race ran higher and thither without wishing to gain any other object besides that condition of "wind and limb" which should fit them for the "course." And those who were to contend in pugilistic encounters exercised their "muscle" upon invisible antagonists, for no other purpose but to prepare themselves for exhibiting their utmost feats of valour and of skill.

To this custom the Apostle evidently alludes when he says to the Corinthians—"I therefore so run, not as uncertainly, so fight I, not as one that beateth the air." The Christian life is both a race and a fight; and Paul felt, that it ill became him to resemble intended contestants engaged in training for the games. He felt that he had already begun the struggle—that a cloud of witnesses was beholding him—that the decision was approaching, and that already the crown was either a-winning or a-losing. And therefore with every weight thrown aside, and with every nerve strained to the utmost, and with his whole soul, body and spirit roused into the most vigorous and resolute determination, he "fights the good fight"—he "presses towards the mark for the prize."

A neglect of the lesson enforced by this example is one of the most general and