

I, in my present state of mind, for such an office!" It was followed by serious reflection, and as he subsequently believed, led to his conversion. When chosen to the secretaryship many years afterwards, he mentioned the fact as affording one reason why he should accept the office, seeing, in some degree, he owed himself to the society. And when, at certain times, the pressure of his office weighed heavily upon his spirits, he has remarked that he owed more to it than any other person.

The removal of Dr. Steadman from Broughton to Plymouth Dock prepared the way for another important event in Mr. Dyer's history. This was his introduction to the business and family of Mr. Burnell, a respectable tradesman at Plymouth; for, though the engagements of trade were not congenial to Mr. Dyer's taste, an attachment was formed between him and Mr. Burnell's eldest daughter, which materially conduced to his future comfort and usefulness. They were married in 1803, and during the remainder of Mrs. Dyer's life, their mutual adaptation for each other was evident to all their friends. From the ministry of Dr. Steadman, also, Mr. Dyer gained great benefit; and having been baptized, and received into the church of which that good man was pastor, he derived much valuable instruction and guidance from his friendship.

It was believed by others that he had talent for ministerial work for some time before he could be induced to attempt it. At length, however, he did so in a manner which fully justified their expectations, and in 1810 he became pastor of the baptist church in Howe's Lane, Plymouth. This station he continued to occupy till 1814, when he accepted an invitation to the pastoral office from the church meeting in Hosier's Lane, Reading.

His esteem for the Baptist Missionary Society, and zeal for its interests, caused him to devote himself very much to the promotion of its objects, both while he resided at Plymouth, and at Reading. To him belongs the honour, we believe, of having established at the former place, the first of those auxiliary societies which have since become so numerous and effective. He took several journeys for the mission during the lifetime

of Mr. Fuller, and on one occasion accompanied him to Scotland. Indeed, as early as the year 1812, he had gained in so great a degree the esteem of the first secretary of the mission, that he regarded him as one of the only two individuals who could carry on the work in case he were removed. In a letter to Mr. Ward written at that time, Mr. Fuller describes the respective qualifications of each, and says of Mr. Dyer, "He has his heart much in the mission; a ready writer, good judgment, active, zealous, affectionate." After Mr. Fuller's death, when Dr. Ryland and Mr. Hinton of Oxford were elected secretaries, Mr. Dyer was one of their most active and useful coadjutors; and when at the expiration of two years Mr. Hinton resigned the office, the management of the society's affairs was, in fact, committed to Mr. Dyer.

This was in 1817. At the annual meeting, which was held that year at Oxford, October 1st, it was resolved on the motion of Mr. Saffery, seconded by Dr. Steadman, "That in consequence of Mr. Hinton's resignation, Mr. Dyer of Reading be requested to accept the office of assistant-secretary for the ensuing year." At the following annual meeting, which was held at Bristol, Sept. 23 and 24, 1818, it was resolved, "That the accumulated business of the society renders it indispensably necessary to associate with Dr. Ryland a secretary who shall be wholly devoted to the service of the mission;" and "That this society, highly satisfied with the conduct of Mr. Dyer, as assistant-secretary for the past year, do cordially thank him for his services; and request him, in conformity with the preceding resolution, to devote himself exclusively to the service of the mission." Resigning his pastorate at Reading, therefore, he removed in the following year to the vicinity of London, where it had become evidently requisite that the business of the society should be conducted.

His mental qualities and habits eminently adapted him for the office to which he was now called. His accuracy in all the details of business, his prudence in all official and social intercourse, his amenity of manners and conciliatory deportment, his integrity and adherence to principle, his zeal for the