

A NOBLE LIFE.

IN MEMORIAM—MR. WILLIAM LUNN.

BY THE REV. JOHN PHILP, M.A.

THERE are not many remaining among us to-day whose lives link the centuries, and the influence of whose noble character and work reaches back over more than two generations. We cannot, therefore, but regard the record of such lives as peculiarly sacred, and crowned with an interest that claims more than ordinary notice.

A few months ago, there passed to his rest in the City of Montreal, at the advanced age of ninety, one of the most worthy and honoured of its citizens. For nearly seventy years he had been a leading and influential worker in secular and religious circles. Wm. Lunn, was born in Devonport, England, on July 18th, 1796. He was educated at the classical and commercial school of that town, and at the age of seventeen obtained a clerkship there, in the cheque office of the dockyard. Six years later (1819), he was offered by Sir Robert Steppings, an important position in connection with the naval stores in Canada; Montreal to be his station.

The following record in his diary will show the beautiful trust of his heart, and the guidance which he sought even in his early manhood. "One day in July I took a walk in the country, and entered a short lane covered with trees and shrubs. I stood still and thought of Moses in the land of Midian, when he saw the bush burning and not consumed. I prayed earnestly to God, that He would in His gracious Providence direct my steps, that I was most desirous to do His will, whether to remain in England, or go to Canada. At that moment I was filled with joy and praise, I knew that this was a most gracious answer to my prayer." The next day came the official letter; he accepted the office, obtained the consent of his parents, and prepared for his departure.

Anxious to be the bearer of spiritual good to the land of his adoption, he obtained, previous to his departure from his native town, a letter of introduction to one of the Secretaries of the British and Foreign Bible Society, London; and calling on him secured the promise that when he was settled at Montreal, a case of Bibles would be forwarded for distribution. RESTING on this promise, no sooner had he reached his destination, and become somewhat accustomed to his new surroundings, than he sought to develop his cherished purpose. He became the first mover in the organization of the Montreal Auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society. In June, 1820, in answer to his appeal, the first official step was taken, and he was selected with two ministers to wait on the Earl of Dalhousie, the newly appointed Governor-General, to solicit him to preside at the opening meeting, and become the patron of the new Society. The reply was becoming the noble Earl: "I cannot confer any honour on the Bible Society, the honour is conferred on me in becoming its patron." On the 10th of August, 1820, the inaugural meeting was held. Prior to this, the promised supply of Bibles had been forwarded, and thus fully equipped, the Society entered at once upon its grand work, which for over sixty years it has been pursuing with untold good, amid the many difficulties peculiarly incident to the Province of Quebec. Mr. Lunn was its first Secretary, afterward its President, then one of its Vice-Presidents, which office he held until his death. The resolution passed by the General Committee of the Montreal Auxiliary (Hon. J. Ferrier, in the chair), expressed the esteem in which he was held.

In other lines of Christian charity, Mr. Lunn was not less active. His