

IN MEMORIAM.

In Memory of Bro. J. A. Gates.

The angel of death has entered our home
And taken a loved one away
To that delightful home above,
And has left us naught but his clay.

We weep as we gaze on that cold still form
That once was so full of cheer,
For the last time we bid him good-bye—
The husband and father dear.

We lay him away in the silent grave
While our hearts with grief are torn;
And there we leave him alone to sleep
Till the resurrection morn.

We turn from the body's lowly bed,
And follow by faith the soul,
That ran the race so patiently
And in triumph reached the goal.

Oh, happy spirit, to be free
From sorrow, toil and pain,
We know, beloved, that our loss
Is thy eternal gain.

Dear Father, fill our hearts with love
For Thee and Thy dear Son,
So we can say, as Jesus said,
"Thy will, not mine, be done."

Oh, help us to obey, dear Lord,
The orders Thou hast given;
That we at last may live with Thee
And our dear ones in heaven.

EMILY MATTHEWS.

JOSEPH AVARD GATES.

The subject of this sketch was born at Wilmot, Annapolis Co., May 2nd, 1836, and died at his home in Woodville, Digby Co., N. S., May 28th, 1893.

At the early age of 17 years he left his native home, his parents having died when he was quite young, and went to Boston, Mass, where he remained about two years. From there he went to Milton, Queen's Co., N. S., then a lad between 19 and 20 years of age. When he had been there about two years, he was led to attend a series of meetings then being held by Bro. John McDonald for the church in Milton. Being of a deeply religious nature, he soon became interested in his salvation, and began to ask for the old paths that he might walk therein. Owing to the influence of early teaching there were difficulties in his way, which for a time kept him from entering the kingdom of God. But after being introduced to Bro. McDonald, his difficulties were soon met and cleared away, and he made the good confession and was baptized by Bro. McDonald, May 2nd, 1858, on his 22nd birthday.

From this time Bro. Gates devoted himself to the work of the Lord by doing what he could to promote the cause of Christ in his new home, and to lead others to the Christ whom he had learned to love. This work soon awakened in him a desire to preach the gospel of Christ to others, and he began to shape his course preacher-ward. But getting somewhat involved in business, he did not see his way clear to fully enter into the work he so much desired.

After having been in the church some six years he married Rebecca, the eldest daughter of Bro. Allen Minard, of Milton, August 3rd, 1844, who died June 13, 1866, leaving their daughter Annie, now the wife of Bro. Orlando Harlow, of Milton, Queens Co. On June 12, 1867, he married Maria, daughter of Bro. W. S. Minard, of Milton, who still survives him, and by whom he has eight children, seven of whom are still living.

In the fall of 1867, Bro. and Sister Gates went to Westport to enter more fully into the work of the Lord, and labored for the church there, and also at Tiverton, till 1870, when he moved to Southville, Digby Co., but still continued preach-

ing for the brethren at Westport and Tiverton, making monthly visits as regularly as possible till the winter of 1872, when, through his influence, the writer of this sketch was induced to take charge of the work there.

During the labors of Bro. and Sister Gates in Westport and Tiverton many were led to Christ, and the cause in that field was greatly built up; and such was his standing among the people in those parts, that I never heard any but good words spoken of him during all the years we lived among this people. And whenever Bro. Gates could visit his old home, he met a hearty welcome from all, whether in or out of the church.

In the year 1872, Bro. Gates went to Bethany Colleger where he remained through one year, when he returned to Nova Scotia, and in 1880 he moved with his family to Letote, N. B., where he preached the greater part of his time for about six years.

During this ministry he was greatly blessed in the success of his work, having had many additions to the church. In one year he baptized in that locality about one hundred. Indeed, from the time he entered the ministry till the close of his labors in Charlotte County, N. B., he was very successful in winning souls for Christ, having had large gatherings at Milton, Westport, Tiverton, Southville, and at other points in Digby County, and at Letote, and at Back Bay, N. B.

After returning from Letote to his home near Weymouth, because of the increasing demands of his large and growing family, he felt compelled to turn his attention to some other means to provide for his family than that of preaching, and by this means the cause of Christ, for a few years, lost one of its most faithful laborers, and it may be that his own life was shortened by the hard work and exposure this course necessitated. But even during these years he did not cease to preach and to do what he could to advance the interest of the cause he so much loved.

A year last spring his health failed him, and we then feared his life work was about done; but by the blessing of God he was again restored, and made us all glad by the new life he seemed to bring with him. At the earnest request of his brethren in Hants Co., he was led to go there and take up the work in that very promising field. And never did a preacher enter on a work with more earnest zeal, nor give more promise of success. But how soon were all our hopes blighted. After a few months of faithful work, in which he endeared himself to the hearts of his brethren in that County, he was again stricken with his old complaint, and compelled to return to his home in Woodville, where after only a few weeks, he passed away to be with Christ, surrounded by his dear wife and children and friends, who loved him as a father and friend indeed.

Thus has passed from earth to heaven a good man and true. The writer of this sketch of his life, has known Bro. Gates for fully 37 years; 35 of which have been as yoke-fellows in the church of God, and more than 25 years as fellow-laborers in the work of the ministry. It was I who first spoke to him of his soul's salvation, and introduced him to Bro. McDonald, that he might teach him the way of the Lord more perfectly.

From our earliest acquaintance we became fast friends, and our relationship and friendship since then remained unbroken. I cannot realize that he has departed from us. I have thus placed before the readers of the CHRISTIAN, so many of whom know and love the man, a brief sketch of the life and work of our departed Bro. Joseph Avard Gates, with the prayer that God will comfort the widow and the fatherless, and raise up from among his children others to take the place of an honored father, and carry on the work he has been called to lay down all too soon.

E. C. FORD.

Port Williams, N. S., July 17, 1893.

Selected.

GOD'S GOLD IN THE CRUCIBLE.

"All is not gold that glitters." Genuine godliness—which comes up to standard weight—is the "gold tried in the fire." The Apostle Peter unfolded a great truth when he said that "the trial of our faith, being much more precious than of gold which perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." The Master demanded that the tree should be known by its fruits; and the branch which is most faithful is that one which is most carefully pruned.

Piety must be tested to prove both its genuineness and its value. A gentleman once attended one of Mr. Moody's meetings to find out, as he said, "if there was anything in the Christian religion." A surer way to know what Jesus Christ is worth to any human soul would be to try Christ as a Saviour from sin, and His commandments as a rule for the daily life. If this test of Christ brought to him pardon for past sins and power to resist temptation; if it purified his heart, sweetened his temper, upheld him in adversities, and lifted him into communion with God, he would require no endorsement from Mr. Moody or any other man to prove to him the golden qualities of a Christian's faith.

The end of Christ's redeeming work is to produce godly character. One great purpose of our heavenly Father in His dealings with His redeemed children, is to test and to improve their graces. He has a great many places for his gold where He refines it. So much alloy of self-will, or pride, or covetousness, or cowardice, is often found even in true Christians that they require the furnace and the crucible. Prosperity is not often spoken of as a state of severe trial, but it is so. A severer test could not be applied to thousands of Christians than to subject them to great worldly successes. The sunny days bring out the adders. Sudden elevations make good men sometimes very dizzy, and like King Hezekiah, they grow self-conceited and vain glorious. They conceal their religion down "in the hatches" (as the sailors say) while they are displaying the magnificence of the vessel. God left Hezekiah to do this that "He might try him, and that He might know all that was within his heart."

On the other hand a sunny career of health, wealth and social eminence sometimes brings out a beautiful exhibition of humanity and most unselfish devotion to the cause of Christ and the welfare of others. When I see a certain successful business man in this neighborhood denying himself all ease and the usual luxuries of leisure in order to drive his Sunday-school work and a score of benevolent activities, I feel quite certain that his Master can trust him with a good income. The reason why I have often paid an honest tribute in these columns to my beloved friend, the late Hon. William Dodge, is that wealth and social position never spoiled him; it developed his graces. The sunshine of prosperity ripened him, instead of rotting.

If God sometimes employs prosperity to test His people, He oftener uses adversity as a purifier. Hard winters kill vermin; and in like manner God sends severe wintry seasons upon His children, to kill off some of their besetting sins. He often casts His people down in order to see whether they will cast him off. Poverty is sometimes "a place for His gold where He may refine it." Arthur Tappan, the famous Christian merchant of his day, was never richer toward God than when, in the commercial crash of 1837, he drew out his watch and handed it to his assignee and said "I give up everything to my creditors." A hot ordeal was it for the grand old philanthropist, but there was a nugget of solid gold left in that crucible.

In these days of wonderful scientific experiments,