

He was a native of New England, but further than that, little do we know of his outward and physical history. Brief were the entries he left "among his papers" concerning himself. They are the following:—"Hezekiah Calvin Wooster was born May 20th, 1771; convinced of sin, October 9, 1791; born again, December 1, 1791; sanctified, February 6, 1792." By what means he was awakened and brought to God, how he was led to see the remaining corruptions of his heart, and through what struggles he passed until he entered the higher life, we know not. Only from these memoranda we see he progressed fast, as, indeed, is the privilege of all, if they obey the call given to every child of God soon after his conversion; for our salvation, through every successive stage, is by grace alone through faith; and neither grace nor faith ask for delay,—“the Word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth and in thy heart, this is the word of faith which we preach.”

He was convicted and converted before he was twenty-one, and sanctified, (that is *fully* sanctified,) within a year after that event. The latter took place 'February 6, 1792," there being a particular moment when the evidence of this blessing is given, as well as a particular moment when we receive forgiveness of sins. All this took place before he went out on a circuit, at least before he was received on trial and his name appeared in the Minutes. His first appointment was given him at the Conference which sat in New York, August 2', 1793. Thus did he enter the field, if not with a college education, with a thorough graduation from the school of Christ.

His Conference obituary says of him, that "he was of a slender habit of body," unsuited to endure "the hardships of travelling and great exertions in preaching." All circuits were then hard, and the least zealous preachers of that day were not inclined to spare themselves, but Wooster made peculiarly hard work of his circuits. "He counted not his life dear unto him, so that he might finish his course with joy, and the ministry which he had received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the Gospel of the grace of God." Hence, feeble as he was, after three laborious circuits in the American Union, in as many different States,—Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York,—he offered himself a missionary for Upper Canada. "On his way in, he and his fellow-traveller lodged twenty nights in the wilderness."

His first circuit was Oswegotchie, which lay on the two banks of the St. Lawrence River, as far as there were settlers accessible from Gananoque to Cornwall, but principally on the Canada side. He was a preacher of holiness, and a rare example of the holiness he preached. Of his piety and devotion the old people were never weary of speaking in terms of glowing admiration. He deserved it; for his devotion to God and the work of soul-saving was above all praise. He had got his soul deeply imbued with God's sanctifying spirit; and he maintained it by continual watchfulness and communion with God. His every breath was prayer. An old lady who often entertained him informed me, that on his arrival he would ask the privilege of going up to the loft of their one-storied log house, which was the only place of retirement, and to which he had to mount up by means of a ladder. There he would remain ill the settlers assembled for preaching, when he would descend, like Moses,