

AN ADDRESS

READ BEFORE THE TRURO METHODIST CHURCH PLEASANT STREET EPWORTH LEAGUE,
FAREWELL SOCIAL TO THE OLD HALL, FRIDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 1ST, 1897,

BY

ISRAEL LONGWORTH, Q. C.

REV. JABEZ A. ROGERS, PRESIDING.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen :--

The Young People's Society of Epworth League in connection with Pleasant Street Methodist Church, not unmindful of the building they now occupy, (known for twenty-one years as Pleasant Street Methodist Hall,) having proved to them on several occasions since their organization, as "none other but the House of God, and the Gate of Heaven", to their waiting souls, have expressed a desire that some record of its history should be furnished to the League, before its meetings are held in the new structure forming the north wing of the enlarged and revised edition of Pleasant Street Church. We all know something of the craze men have for old hats and old shoes; and women for old bonnets and old dresses, on account of the comfort which is experienced from their wear. The late Mrs. Burnyeat, relict of the first English Church Clergyman of this Town, informed me that her husband wore a clerical hat for so many years that at last she became perfectly ashamed of it, and, aware of Mr. Burnyeat's fondness for old things, and great dislike to changes, she resorted to a little stratagem to get rid of it. When the late Archdeacon Willis of Huilfax was to make his first pastoral visit to Truro, and was expected a certain hour on a certain day to drive to and sojourn at Longfield Cottage, Mrs. Burnyeat placed a new clerical hat of same pattern and size as the old one on the hall table, and put the one in use in the waste barrel in the cellar. When Mr. Burnyeat got word that the Archdeacon was driving up the avenue he went out to meet him, first looking for his hat, but not finding the one he had been accustomed to wear, would not leave the house till it was brought from its appropriate hiding place. To such a man a new hat was like the armour of Saul to David,—"he had not proved it." And is it not noticeable that women, in trimming their Easter hats and spring bonnets, do not long for the feathers of newly discovered birds. They are perfectly satisfied with the plumes from the tail and wings of the old ostrich.

It is therefore not to be wondered at, that such feelings of high regard should be manifested by our young friends for this old hall,—the place where so many, during two decades, have realised "they have a building of God, an House not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." Doubtless feelings of this character actuated the Jews in their captivity in exclaiming:—"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy."

The only matter for surprise is, that the task imposed, had not fallen to one accustomed to speak in League Meetings, who would have been more at home in addresses of a semi-religious character.

To accomplish the duty assigned, the best I can do, is to act on the philosophy of Sir Boyle Roche, who said "that the right way to meet danger, was to meet it plump in the face," and in the presence of so many good looking