

DAVID BUCHAN.

(3rd March 1807—17th October 1877.)

To a former generation of Canadian Baptists this name would mark a well-known figure: even yet it may recall the form of a tall, well-bodied, kindly-faced, noticeable man, who strove to do his duty and to stand by the truth, at all hazards according to his light. He took part in some stormy seasons of the past (religious and political) which had their work to do in order to bring in the serener atmosphere in which churches and people now live. The eye of his soul always turned to the Lord Christ, his Master as well as his Saviour, and Him he followed with constant heart through a long life. Hence came his usual aspect of cheerfulness giving (in Izaak Walton's phrase) "a silent testimony of a clear knowing soul and of a conscience at peace with itself."

Happy the child, born of godly parents, who from birth is surrounded with the gracious influences of a Christian home! Education begins in a mother's arms and by the mother's side, and as the body grows the character is rightly shaped in goodness and truth. This unpurchasable blessing was the lot of the good man of whom I write: not only his parents, but a long line of forbears on both sides were members of the great family of faith. His father was a Scottish Baptist who combined the week-day business of mercantile life with the Lord's day business of preaching. His mother, of the same religious body, was according to social measurements of somewhat higher grade than her husband: but, what they and their son David considered of greater importance, she was in her line of descent connected with the outstanding names of Ebenezer and Ralph Erskine. The pair were worthily mated and for seventeen years walked together in all the ordinances and commandments of the Lord. Then the husband and father was taken and the wife was left to a long widowhood of thirty years fruitful, however, in offices of affection and helpfulness to many who knew and loved her.

But of this James Buchan, the father, and Margaret Ewing, the mother, a little more must be noted as to their religious progress: for the impress of these early events told upon the life