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A FALL INTO INFIDELITY, AND A MERCIFUL DELIVERANCE FROM IT.

EXEMPLIFIED IN THE LIFE EXPERIENCES OF A LIVING MAN—
JOSEPH BARKER.

IN 18—, a minister, well known in our Canadian Methodist Church, retired from the itinerant ministry of the Methodist New Connexion in the great maritime city of Liverpool,—this was our brother, Michael Baxter,—and a young man was called out to fill his place. He had been a local preacher in the Primitive Methodist body, to which community, after many wanderings, he has now returned; but for some reason or other his way opened into the regular ministry in the branch of Methodism before indicated. That young man was JOSEPH BARKER.

He was a native of England, and born and brought up in humble circumstances. His parents were pious, and his father particularly exemplary and devout. There must have been talent as well as piety in the family, for three of his brothers, I think, besides himself, became ministers. Joseph became a member of the Methodist Society at the age of a little past sixteen; at the age of twenty he became a local preacher; and before he was twenty-three, he entered the travelling ministry. He was principally self-educated, but whoever looks into his works will see that he mastered nearly everything which belongs to a liberal education.

He spoke and wrote his vernacular with purity and vigour; he mastered the dead languages, Latin, Greek and Hebrew, to an extent which enabled him to avail himself of them in acquiring