

FAITH'S LIFESON.

I was dreading the dark tomorrow,
For my heart was oppressed with fear,
And its burden of care and sorrow
Seemed more than I could bear.

REMINISCENCES No. 21.

HISTORY OF THE RISE AND PROGRESS OF OUR CAUSE IN CANADA.

JOSEPH ASH

With this No. I take my leave of the readers of the CHRISTIAN WORKER, as a chronicler of the rise and progress of the church of Christ in Ontario I have not spoken of any part of the Dominion of Canada, but the "Province of Ontario," there are many churches in the "Maritime Provinces," and many individual brethren in Manitoba and the great North-West.

Many have suggested that I rewrite my articles, enlarge, amend, and fit them for a book, if life and health should be spared, I could do so, and make them much more complete. All along I have felt myself incited hampered by the smallness of the WORKER, in which they are published. In answer to such enquiries I may state that I have no desire to publish a book, but if any one desires it, I would furnish the M.S. at a very low rate.

I feel very thankful to several old brethren who have kindly assisted in giving me information I was not in possession of. I have written very largely from memory, and it would be miserable if in chronicling events covering a period of 55 years, I should not be somewhat astray in dates and some other matters. I had a great desire to do ample justice to every one personally, and give a correct statement of every matter touched.

In this number I design to give a brief history of our Publications. The first one was called "The Christian Investigator," it was published in Cobourg by a Committee of which I was one. The first No. appeared June 7th, 1837, it was a tiny little monthly

and created quite a stir among our opposers. There were some very fine articles written by a Bro Murdoch McDonald, spoken of more particularly in my first article. This paper lived only 10 months, by the removal of the printer was necessary to suspend its publication and we could never revive it.

The second publication was a monthly like the Investigator, called "The Witness of Truth." Before this appeared we made a strong effort to get W. W. Eaton of St. John, N.B., to remove to Toronto with a paper which he was publishing there called "The Christian." There were 2 or 3 meetings of representative brethren, but no definite arrangement could be made and the meeting stood adjourned till we could have further communication with Bro Eaton, but before the adjourned meeting had time to take place, Bro David Oliphant circulated a prospectus for the "Witness of Truth," to be published in Picton, P.E. Co. A good many were not well pleased with his hurrying the publication of the "Witness of Truth," before the other movement was finally disposed of; but after considerable talk it was decided by most of the brethren that inasmuch as the whole matter of Eaton's coming was an uncertainty, it would be wise to accept Bro Oliphant and his paper, which was a certainty. The first No. appeared on Jan. 1st, 1846. It was conducted with a fair share of ability and was the medium through which a good deal of information and the defence of the true gospel was spread abroad. It soon obtained a good circulation, what ever may be said about its meanderings of places of publication, and of change of name, to its honour I am proud to bear testimony that its pages stood up manfully for the "ancient gospel," pure and simple, and was never stained by that blighting doctrine and practice, which originated in Ohio, called "Expediency and Progress." I do not think Bro Oliphant's tongue ever hisped that doctrine, nor did he patronize the awful thing when put into practice. That paper lived on a good many years, but of the exact year of its decease I am not informed.

The third publication was "The Adviser," the first number appeared in July, 1850. It was conducted by a committee composed of Elds. E. Sheppard, James Black, and C. J. Lister. It had a good patronage and was a good paper, giving church news, travels and labours of Evangelists sent out and otherwise. It contained a large number of very fine extracts from other papers. Its life terminated at the end of three years. The real cause of its death I am not aware of. It is a fact I have observed long ago that a paper conducted by a committee does not thrive well, I have always seen more energy and a greater display of talent and promptness in the business department when it is owned and conducted by an individual.

The fourth paper was "The Indicator," owned and conducted by Bro C. J. Lister. The first number appeared in Jan. 1869. The fact that it was wholly in the hands of Bro C. J. Lister was a guarantee that it would give forth no uncertain sound. The "Indicator" was an excellent little paper and free from personal matter, which should be left to private correspondence or settlement, rather than to appear in a public paper. It had an existence of three years and it ceased to be. Then the brotherhood of Canada were left without a paper of their own. At length the Bros, James

and Robt. Beatty of Toronto, published the fifth paper, the "Bible Index." The fortunes of our publications were so various and their lives so short that the Bros. Beatty allowed that if they commenced a paper it should be born to live, not to die. The first number appeared in Nov., 1872, it soon obtained a good circulation and kept steadily increasing. In 1875 Bro. H. McDairmid came to Canada from Ky, and after a time he proposed to publish a paper too, and to show the brotherhood and the public that they (the Beatty Bros.) were anxious for union in all things, consented to retire from the management of the "Index," in favour of Bro. McDairmid.

Consequently by arrangement the paper was put into the hands of E. Sheppard, H. McDairmid, and Colin Sinclair, H. McDairmid editor; but the Beatty's retained the ownership, and the right to assume it at the end of one year, or they could let it run on. It ran on till the expiration of three years, when they took it into their own hands on Jan. 1st, 1880. Bro. McDairmid then commenced to publish the "Christian Sentinel," which was the 6th paper. Things went on in this way for a year. A good deal was said about two papers being issued in Toronto where there should be but one, when again the Beatty's consented to give up the management of the "Index" to a committee of five brethren who were to choose an editor, Bro. McDairmid's paper and the "Index" were then merged in one, under the management called "The Bible Index and Christian Sentinel." The committee chose Bro. H. McDairmid as editor. It thus ran on till 1883, when the Beatty's resumed the "Index," and have conducted it since. Bro. McDairmid removed to Cincinnati and the "Sentinel" ceased to be.

The next and last paper the CHRISTIAN WORKER had its birth on Nov. 1st, 1881, printed in Owen Sound, brother C. A. Fleming manager, and H. B. Sherman editor. It appeared under the auspices of the Georgian Bay Co-operation, and was designed to be a reporter of religious news in that region, and was to show how the Co-operative work was prospering, &c. It was a small monthly sheet and had a pretty wide circulation in a short time, after two months it was moved to Meaford with Bro. J.C. Whitelaw as business manager. Since then it has been enlarged and improved and is increasing in circulation. It is now owned and published by Bros. Law & Whitelaw of Meaford, where it is printed. It is a lively spicy paper and gives a large amount of church news and is conducted with ability.

As I said about the integrity of Bro. Oliphant's "Witness of Truth," so I can say of the "Adviser," the "Indicator," the "Index," the "Sentinel," and lastly the WORKER. None of them have stooped so low as to advocate the detestable doctrine of expediency and progress people over the borders. All our papers speak well of the ability of the editor, the publishers, and correspondents. It is much to be hoped that the two papers now living among us, will continue to display zeal for truth and energy in encouraging and enlightening the brotherhood and press on in every good work.

In taking my leave of the readers of the WORKER, I feel a glowing sensation of joy and thankfulness rising up in my heart to my blessed heavenly Father for so kindly sustaining me through my arduous labours of

about 2 years continued writing my articles, very much of which has been written at the midnight hours when all nature around me was hushed into sound repose. Often too when the pains of Sciatica prevented me from occupying a comfortable sitting posture. I am so glad I am through, and that the love of the Jesus has strengthened and his almighty power has kept me, in the blessing and help of God I shall still move my pen and my tongue to speak while I am here in defense and praise of my blessed heavenly Father.

Dear readers, I bid you farewell In hopes of immortality, JOSEPH ASH.

THE CHRISTIAN'S SECURITY.

If there is anything that a human being should desire to feel secure in, it is certainly his "title to mansions in the skies." Men exercise reasonable care and diligence with regard to the title by which they hold their earthly possessions, and this is right. If one goes to work and by industry and economy procures property enough to make him comfortable and independent in his declining days, and then as the shadows begin to lengthen and the evening twilight comes on apace, should lose it all through a defective title, it would be a sad misfortune. A feeling of security based upon a proper understanding of the case, is very desirable in regard to all important affairs. Uncertainty is about the most harassing condition the mind can be in.

But if we feel a desire to be secure in regard to the important concerns of this life, how much more intense should our desire to feel secure with respect to matter pertaining to the life to come! And if the loss of an estate through a defective title in this world is a deplorable misfortune, what language can inadequately describe the calamity involved in the loss of the soul and eternal life in the world to come! This would be a misfortune with which the loss of worlds is not to be compared.

The security furnished the faithful child of God in the sacred writings, is of the fullest and most satisfactory character. The security of God's word surpasses all earthly security. The word of man frequently fails; but the word of God never. The heavens and the earth shall pass away, but the word of the Lord abides forever, and not one jot thereof will fail. On its assurances we can therefore lean in the utmost confidence. On it we may build, as on a foundation that can never be shaken. Its pledges are sure to be maintained and redeemed, whatever else may happen. The promises of the Almighty always have been, and always will be faithfully kept.—Not one of those who have relied upon the divine assurances, was ever disappointed. God can be trusted with the most implicit confidence.

The safety of the child of God depends upon nothing less than the love of the Father—a love that changes not. Human love is sometimes fickle. Even a mother may forget her sucking child; but God's love for his children is unfeeling. While one's father and mother may forsake him, yet if he is a child of God, the Lord will take him up. "The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want." Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? It is an apostle's triumphant challenge to all the combined enemies of God's children. And what a comfort it is to be assured that no evil power or influence can break down the love that the Lord cherishes for those that are his. "For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities,

nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Thus we stand secure in the love of God, far beyond the reach of any foe.

God's love for his people is something beyond our powers of comprehension. He so loved the world—the wicked world—that he gave up his Son to die on a cross, that "whoever believeth in him might not perish, but have everlasting life." This is something wonderful. That God should send his Son to die for a world in rebellion against him, is the wonder of the ages. Now if God did that for his enemies, what will he not do for his children? He that spared not even his Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him freely give us all things? What God has done for the world at large, is the pledge of what he will do for those who do his will.

So great is my veneration for the Bible, that the earliest children begin to read it, the more confident will be my hopes that they will prove useful citizens to their country, and respectable members of society.—John Quincy Adams. Who bravely dares not sometimes risk a fall.

never to leave them, never to forsake them. His mighty arm is stretched forth to shield and protect them in every time of need and danger. "I will surely do and thou shalt exceed great reward," saith the Almighty, and none "shall upon these to hurt thee." Our foes may be numerous and powerful; our discouragements may be many and strong; but the Lord is our defender and tells us not to fear." He will bring us off "conquered," and more than conquer through him that loved us and gave himself for us."

With what heavenly peace should these considerations fill our minds! What divine joys they should inspire in our hearts! Perfect resignation of consecration to God brings to the soul a peace that passes all understanding. If we take God at his word and put implicit confidence in his promises, we have abundant assurances that it shall be well with us, both in this life and in that which is to come.—Apostolic Times.

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Written by Mr. H. H. B. ...

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