

Retrospect of Life.

Autobiography of Rev. H. St. Yates.

Written for THE BEE.

INTRODUCTION.
How am I to say all that should be said in a reasonable compass? And then as to the materials of my short sketch: I have no autobiographical notes to consult, (or very few, and imperfect ones) no written explanations of particular facts, which were intensely interesting, hardly any minutes of definite transactions and few contemporary memoranda of the feelings and motives under which through life I have acted. Under these circumstances my sketch will of course be incomplete.

EARLY BOYHOOD.
I was born near Sevenoakes, in the county of Kent, Sept. 20th, 1866. Every acre of the country side around for miles was rich in historic lore, every domain associated with memories calculated to permeate any susceptible soul with national sentiment. Amid surroundings so beautiful, and scenes sacred to the memory of the illustrious dead, I passed my early boyhood days and drank in of a life so pure and breathed an atmosphere so ennobling that nothing could check the development of that fine feeling which we define as national sentiment.

I came on one side from stock that traced its proud ancestry from the time when William the Norman brought some of the bluest blood of France into England, and on the other from the Huguenots driven from kith and kin because of their Protestant faith.

For some years I enjoyed the advantage of English public school life, and surprised myself and many friends by obtaining at the age of twelve a prize and certificate given by the Caterbury Diocesan Board for a theological essay on "The Prayer Book," in competition with all public schools of that province. An achievement I do not think I could accomplish now nor at any subsequent period of my life.

And now I arrive at a crisis in my youthful history, my father becoming involved in financial difficulties through protracted litigation, was

OBLIGED TO LEAVE THE OLD FAMILY RESIDENCE

and to live in less pretentious halls nearer to the metropolis, (a line of action, which though necessary, nearly broke my mother's heart) and the family, through the development of many causes, was scattered, my beloved and eldest sister, Blanche, went to live with a distant branch of the family, the Moxhams, of "Cudham Court," a fine old English home on the white Kentish hills; (Sir Edwin Landseer, the celebrated painter, who was a cousin of the Moxhams, was a frequent visitor here) it was a beautiful spot close by the ancient church of St. Peter and St. Paul, a noble structure dating back more than twelve centuries, and often as I have entered its hoary walls have I been carried in reverent reflections back through long aisles rich with holiest associations, and although the clergy were supposed to be ritualistic, I did not ask how many pictures were upon its walls or how many jeweled lights glistened from the altar; I could not but worship and wonder and adore. Two yew trees in the churchyard are especially worthy of notice being the finest in the county of Kent, so noted for its beautiful domains and parks; one of these has opened through age (which I believe is as great as the church itself) and a table can be placed in the hollow thus formed in the trunk and a dozen men dine around it. Under the shadow of these trees rest the ashes of many of the most illustrious southern English families. A curious custom is still kept up in connection with this church (and I believe provision is made to make it perpetual). Every year, early in January, all the poor of the parish receive doles of bread; this bread is first taken to the vestry and after a short service of thanksgiving, it is distributed to the heads of families in proportionate quantities according to the size of the families they represent. Behind the church rises the stately vicarage of modern date, which is one of the finest residences in the south of England, a gift to the vicar by Mr. Spottiswood, printer to Her Majesty in the city of London.

But to return to my sister Blanche, she was a beautiful little creature, with fair complexion and golden hair, eight years my senior, we were not so affectionate as we should have been, and our lives drifted apart; she has since married a Mr. Le Garsick, a French gentleman, and living at present at Southall, just across the river Thames from the town of Windsor, in the county of Berkshire. She is in very comfortable circumstances, having a private income independent of her husband's.

Soon after my sister left home I saw that owing to the diminished income of my father, that all of the boys could not receive a collegiate education, I determined

START OUT IN LIFE FOR MYSELF.

I was young, only twelve, but my cause was high, my purpose was lofty. I left home in disguise, and tramped to another part of England, where I obtained work with a village blacksmith whose

name was Reeves, (some relation to the famous English tenor singer) my duties were numerous and heavy, a pony to be cared for, the water tank in the forge to be supplied with water from a pond several hundred yards distant, and the worn shoes to be removed from horses feet. Those were hard days for one who had never learned to work and the pay was small—thirty cents a day and board myself. I lived nearly a mile from the forge and took a piece of cold lunch every day in dingy precincts, my spare moments were spent in study preparing for that most difficult of all matriculations that of the University of London, Eng. I stayed here I believe about three or four months, after which I went to work for a miller of the same village, who set me to break up clinkers which came from factories in large blocks and needed to be broken for garden paths. I also had to assist in the stables here, in which were kept about twenty fine horses. I cannot say that I received the kindest treatment here, but as good as a poor boy (as they supposed I was) generally receives in England. I did not stay here long, but went to a place called Bromley Common and obtained employment with a church builder, W. Smith, and here I received my first insight into architectural drawing and planning. Whilst here I had to walk five miles night and morning for about six months. I was at this time earning about 60 cents per day. By this time I had written several articles published in the north of England, called "The Believer's Pathway." This brought me under the influence of two very remarkable men, J. V. C. Fegan, an Irish gentleman who had given up his social position in Ireland and devoted his fortune to the rescue of London street arabs; he was a brilliant scholar, an eloquent preacher and a broad, liberal soul. The other, Rev. W. Lincoln, formerly incumbent of Beresford chapel, a fashionable place of worship in the south of London, but he had before this withdrawn from the regular ministry and had gathered a crowd of worshippers around him, a man whose writings exerted a wider influence at this time on "The ruin of the church and the believer's way out of it." I owe much to these two men. Then without making myself known to the world I obtained employment with the firm of Thomas Callan & Sons, of Rochester, Kent. As far as I can remember I stayed here about six months, and then came back west, and then occurred the

MOST IMPORTANT CRISIS IN LIFE.

One of the officers of Her Majesty's army, Captain Masters, of the 11th Life Guards, was preaching at the village of Downe, about 20 miles south of the city of London; I attended, and his sermons had a wonderful influence with me and finally, not in his public discourses, but in private conversation, when his soul, nobler in energy and purpose than mine, touched me and led me to the feet of a crucified Christ and to a personal trust in His atoning sacrifice for sin. I shall never forget that holy man, to whom, humanly speaking, I owe my soul. A perfect beau ideal of physical manhood and a character so beautifully developed in everything good and as large as the frame which held it. He had a lovely little wife, a perfect treasure, a real helpmeet. About this time he resigned his commission in the army and devoted his time and means to the evangelization of the soldiers and police stationed in the metropolis (headquarters at 214 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S. W.). If living, may Almighty God bless him; if dead, forgive me when I utter a prayer for the repose of his soul. At this time many members of the Anglican establishment and of the upper class of society received a deepening of spiritual life. This life necessarily manifested itself in action. These actions conflicted with the judgment of the authorities of the diocese, which ultimately culminated in a break from her communion, which I consider the first wrong step of my life. My judgment, matured by lapsing years, tells me now that they were right and I in my unwise enthusiasm was wrong. Now I was introduced by Mr. Fegan on a platform in London, and strange as it may seem, at the age of fifteen I was addressing large meetings in the metropolis. I had a specially interesting meeting of young men in Southwark Conference Hall with good results. About this time I spoke to a young lady (a Miss Phillips) about her soul; years passed by, I had forgotten the incident, and after I had been in Canada some time I received a letter from this lady telling me those words had resulted in her conversion and that she was working as a lady missionary in St. Luke's parish in Clerkenwell.

Now I was to pass through another important period. Professor Darwin having heard of me sent for me to his house, and here I spent some of the happiest days of my life as a student under that gifted man. Never did a truer heart beat in any bosom, never was there a greater mind. Not one who put his faith in ordinary phraseology, it was too high for that, but dealt largely with abstract truth. During these days Mrs. Darwin was a mother to me, often has that noble woman taken me to her room and inspired my young soul with noble thoughts, while here I was introduced to that other great English naturalist, Sir John Lubbock, whose domain called "High Elms," was about two miles distant from "Down House," the residence of Darwin.

(CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.)

PROGRESS OF METHODISM IN A BRIEF HISTORY OF METHODISM IN ATWOOD AND VICINITY.

THE second annual meeting of the members and adherents of the Methodist church was held last Monday evening, at 8 o'clock, Rev. D. Rogers presiding. The chairman spoke of the satisfaction it gave him to see so many out to hear of the work of the church for the year ending May 15, 1891, and felt confident that with a fuller knowledge on the part of the members of all the affairs of the church would result in an increase of interest and give satisfaction to all concerned. He then presented a brief history of Methodism in these parts from its inception to the present, some of which may be of interest even to those who are not connected with this branch of the church, as it reaches back to the early days when Elma was new and religious services were not so numerous as to-day.

In the years 1854 Revs. J. Armstrong and J. E. Dyer travelled what was known as Grey mission, which included the townships of Grey, Wallace and Elma. In 1857 the Elma mission was organized and Rev. D. Hunt was the first pastor. At the expiration of his term of two years, a membership of 133 was reported. Revs. L. Crane, J. Sanderson and Nelson Brown labored on the field until 1867, when Listowel was organized a mission with 206 members, and Trowbridge organized with 136 members. Rev. Wm. Tucker was the first stationed minister on the Trowbridge part, followed in 1870 by Rev. N. Smith, in 1872 Rev. J. Hough, in 1875 Rev. J. Deacon under whose zealous labors the whole circuit was in a flame of revival. Not a few who were then converted remain unto this day, but some have fallen asleep. In 1878 Rev. J. Stinson was appointed and in 1881 Rev. H. Berry, who was assisted in 1882 and 1883 by R. J. Garbutt. These three years were successful in soul-saving, church building and church improvement. During his term the small but spirited membership of Atwood built the comfortable church which we now occupy. At the expiration of his term in 1884, the Union took place and Atwood was organized a circuit with a membership of about 140 and Rev. J. W. Pring appointed pastor. During his two years several series of revival services were held and a number converted. The parsonage was also selected and purchased for \$1,000. In 1886 a membership of 168 was returned and Rev. J. Ferguson appointed. In 1889 170 members were reported and the present incumbent assumed the pastorate. Each of the past two years the Connexion Funds have shown an increase, notably the Missionary Fund. The assessment for Superannuated Ministers' Fund has been fully met each year by the people. The receipts of the Quarterly Board have also advanced, and a deeper tone of spirituality pervades our services. During the past year five of our members have laid down the staff of their pilgrimage and taken up the palm of the victor; ten have removed and five are dropped. A Woman's Auxiliary has been organized which has already done good work and a wider field of usefulness opens up. The Children's Mission Band is moving forward under favorable conditions, and the Epworth League, organized in January, has entered upon its second quarter and promises to be of service in developing the intellectual and spiritual life of our young people. The outlook is full of hope for extended Christian influence.

Reports and financial statements of the following societies were then presented by their respective secretaries:—Trustee Board by J. W. McBain, Epworth League by John A. McBain, an excellent report of the Mission Band was prepared by Maggie Graham, and the following report of the Auxiliary was prepared and read by Miss Ida Parker:—First annual report of the Women's Auxiliary, Atwood Methodist church, ten have removed and five are dropped. A Woman's Auxiliary has been organized which has already done good work and a wider field of usefulness opens up. The Children's Mission Band is moving forward under favorable conditions, and the Epworth League, organized in January, has entered upon its second quarter and promises to be of service in developing the intellectual and spiritual life of our young people. The outlook is full of hope for extended Christian influence.

Reports and financial statements of the following societies were then presented by their respective secretaries:—Trustee Board by J. W. McBain, Epworth League by John A. McBain, an excellent report of the Mission Band was prepared by Maggie Graham, and the following report of the Auxiliary was prepared and read by Miss Ida Parker:—First annual report of the Women's Auxiliary, Atwood Methodist church, ten have removed and five are dropped. A Woman's Auxiliary has been organized which has already done good work and a wider field of usefulness opens up. The Children's Mission Band is moving forward under favorable conditions, and the Epworth League, organized in January, has entered upon its second quarter and promises to be of service in developing the intellectual and spiritual life of our young people. The outlook is full of hope for extended Christian influence.

The Dale pivoted land miller, the property of J. Dale, of Chatham, has been disposed of to Dr. T. T. Coleman, of Seaford, for the sum of \$10,000 cash. The patterns have been removed to Seaford where the manufacture will be continued almost immediately under the supervision of James Irving.

A. McKibbin, a clever young student for the Methodist ministry, and well-known in Clinton, has succeeded in winning the Webster prize and also the Ryerson prize, at Victoria University. Messrs. D. A. Burgess, B. A., and J. H. Griffin, B. A., both of Clinton Collegiate, also passed the second year law examination.

The Ontario Legislature has passed a bill for the protection of the plant known as "gensing." Of late years the Indians have been making a good thing by gathering this plant which in parts of Huron county is quite plentiful. A great deal of it has been gathered by the Indians around the Saugenee river, and on the Bruce peninsula.

At the meeting of the Presbytery of Maitland, in Wingham, on May 12th, it was agreed that Knox church, Brussels, be supplied through the Probationer's committee for one month next quarter. The clerk was instructed to forward the name of the Rev. G. S. Howie, Ph. D., to the committee on the distribution of Probationers for work, if he should desire employment through the committee.

of our society, have kindly contributed to our funds, in this way expressing their hearty approval of what has been undertaken, and while thanking God for the success which has attended our efforts in the past, we hope to accomplish much more during the coming year, and bespeak for our society the hearty support of the entire congregation.

Mrs. D. ROGERS, President.
Miss IDA PARKER, Secretary.

The services of the ushers were kindly spoken of and on motion a vote of thanks was tendered the choir for their excellent services during the past year.

We might add that two or three weeks ago the Quarterly Board unanimously passed the following resolution: That this Quarterly Official Board has great pleasure in placing on record its hearty and sincere approval of the course pursued by Rev. D. Rogers both in his pulpit and pastoral efforts for the good of this circuit and his general business management of the affairs of the church, and we hereby heartily invite him to return for the third year, assuring him of our continued aid and co-operation. Mr. Rogers thanked the Board for this kind expression of good will, that he could not well be happier in his work and expected to labor here another conference year.

Under Drainage.
The autumn is the best season for underdraining. The ground is usually in a more favorable condition for prosecuting the work at that time, and there is generally more leisure for it. There is still a very large amount of this work required on our farms to bring them in the best condition for being cultivated at the proper season and for producing to their full capacity. Every farmer whose lands require it should try and do more or less of this every season. It is unfortunate that much of the draining that has been done in this country has not been done to the very best purpose, owing to the imperfect way in which the work has been performed. We know of no branch of work where the careful execution is of more importance than in laying drains because of the difficulty of making repairs. If a wagon wheel gives way through defective workmanship it can at once be removed and the weak part repaired, but where a drain is to be mended the chief part of the work consists in getting down to the defective part to make the repair. Drains that last only a few years are very expensive and material that will not secure effective work for a long term of years should not be used at all, now that tiles are so abundantly provided. If an under drain is well laid with good tiles it should continue to do its work for generations, and with increasing, rather than decreasing, effectiveness, owing to the more thorough filtration in the soil as the years roll on. The measure of value of a drain is that of its weakest or most poorly laid tile, just as the measure of value of a chain is that of its weakest link.

Huron County Notes.
The petition to have a stage put on the old route between Bayfield and Seaford is being largely signed.

It is more than likely that Wingham will have another bank, this time a branch of the Molsons bank.

Cartelton Bros., Clinton, shipped 2,700 pounds of butter to a Montreal firm, during the past few weeks.

There were between \$180 and \$150 stolen out of the Auburn postoffice, in registered letters, on Wednesday night May 6th.

W. Cudmore has just completed the shipment of 20 cars of hay from Gode-rich, making 113 cars that he has shipped since last August.

In the course of business the other day, F. W. Watts, of Clinton, came across a copper bearing date 1678, over 200 years old; it looks as if it had been in circulation all that time too.

The Dale pivoted land miller, the property of J. Dale, of Chatham, has been disposed of to Dr. T. T. Coleman, of Seaford, for the sum of \$10,000 cash. The patterns have been removed to Seaford where the manufacture will be continued almost immediately under the supervision of James Irving.

A. McKibbin, a clever young student for the Methodist ministry, and well-known in Clinton, has succeeded in winning the Webster prize and also the Ryerson prize, at Victoria University. Messrs. D. A. Burgess, B. A., and J. H. Griffin, B. A., both of Clinton Collegiate, also passed the second year law examination.

The Ontario Legislature has passed a bill for the protection of the plant known as "gensing." Of late years the Indians have been making a good thing by gathering this plant which in parts of Huron county is quite plentiful. A great deal of it has been gathered by the Indians around the Saugenee river, and on the Bruce peninsula.

COMMUNICATIONS.

The Beef We Eat.

To the Editor of THE BEE.
SIR:—There is known to be a great scarcity of good beef cattle in this locality at present and at such times there is always a tendency to take cattle that are not in the very best order, and I am afraid not in the best of health. Therefore I would call the attention of our health officers to this matter and ask them to drop around at our different slaughter houses and examine the beef there and see that all is right, and if any are guilty stop them, but if there is nothing wrong they need not fear such a visit on their premises.

I am, yours,
BEEF EATER.

Atwood, May 20, 1891.

Additional Local Items.

THE Baptist Association meets here early in June.

Mrs. JAS. A. GRAY attended the funeral of her aunt, Mrs. Benjamin Johnson, of Carthage, last Tuesday.

THE Seaford football club has arranged a tip-top series of matches with the crack clubs of this continent.

THE merchants of Atwood have agreed to close their respective places of business on Monday, May 25th, it being proclaimed a national holiday. Those having business will please do it on Saturday next.

THE Reeves of Elma and Wallace, Messrs. Cleland and Poole, left on Wednesday, 20th inst., to accompany the delegation which went to Ottawa re the question of recuperating the municipalities for their railway bonuses.

OUR old friend, Henry Wilson, is confined to his room with the grippe. The weight of years together with this disease will go hard with him. He is receiving the best of care and a few days may see him around again. We hope so.

A CHOIR has been organized in connection with the Baptist church, J. A. Turnbull, leader. They rendered good service last Sunday. Nothing is more helpful in a religious service as good choir and congregational singing. With a newly fitted up place of worship, a new pastor and a new choir, the church should extend her borders and add to her numerical strength.

On Thursday night of last week some villain crawled through a small stable window thereby gaining entrance into Wm. Hawkshaw's slaughter house and stole fifty pounds of the choicest part of a dressed beef. This is a dastardly mean trick, and a strong dose of law mixed with a sound thrashing and flavored with tar and feathers would be meting out to the guilty party his just desserts.

MESSRS. B.F. BROOK & SON, Listowel, have made extensive improvements in their woolen mill. They have replaced their engine with one of the latest style 35 horsepower Wheelock engines, being the third engine in Canada with the improved system of cut-offs. He has also added a new dye house and a new finishing room. He expects to have everything in first-rate shape in time for the opening of the wool season. See advt.

NORTHWEST ECHOES.

An unknown Icelander was drowned in Red River while fishing.

Rat Portage assessors have completed their work, and return the assessment as \$810,000 and the population as 2,205.

Fletcher, on trial at Battleford for the murder of an Indian named Dakota has been found guilty of manslaughter. He was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment.

A meeting of the Board of Trade was called last Tuesday to discuss the situation in view of the rumored withdrawal of the Northern Pacific road from the Province.

Some change in the running time of C. P. R. express trains between here and Port Arthur is contemplated. The change is found necessary to make connections with the lake boats.

A Medicine Hat despatch says it is reported by the Medicine Hat Ranch Company that a band of Indians are killing cattle on their ranches. Two fine animals were shot by desperadoes, the tongues and choice parts being cut off and the balance left on the prairie. The ranchmen are getting excited.

Convict Hill, a notorious safe-breaker escaped from Stony Mountain Penitentiary Wednesday night, May 13. He was beyond doubt the worst crook in prison. He was sentenced about three years ago for a term of eight years for blowing up the Hudson Bay Company's safe at Portage la Prairie. Since he came here he has been a continual source of trouble to his guards. How he escaped and where he has gone to are equally mysterious, but those who know him say that he is not the kind of gaolbird to be easily recaptured. Strenuous efforts are being made to recapture him. It is stated that in making his escape through one particular air-hole he had to battle against a drop of about 30 feet on the hard rock below, but that was a trifle compared to some of his feats in accomplishing his escape.