

fellowship for nearly five years, until called to a wider sphere. His conversion was clear, and he sought, from the first, to walk before God with a perfect heart. He early commenced to pray for the blessing of full sanctification, as then taught and urged from the pulpit, and soon the Lord answered his prayer, and, in his own language, he found "a blessing so great, so dear, so sweet, so precious" to his soul, that he could believe he was there and then sanctified, and in that state he sought to live, proving all through life the power and efficacy of the precious blood of Christ to cleanse from all sin. Soon after his conversion he was chosen a class-leader. After that he was invited to preach at some week-night services. His first text was from Ezekiel xxxiii. 2. The word was with power, and there was a shaking among the dry bones. He was then placed upon the Local Preachers' plan, and labored for some time in that capacity. In a very pleasant way he was almost unconsciously drawn into the Christian ministry, his scruples and hesitation were overcome, and he consecrated himself completely to the work of the Lord, through the advice and influence of his dear friend and pastor, the sainted Andrew Cory. Mr. Cory engaged him as a supply, then re-engaged him, and afterwards led him into the full work, of which ministry, through God's help, he made full proof. His education was very limited, having been to school but two months in his life. When converted he could scarcely read a chapter in the Bible, nor could he write; but by diligence and the help of others he became a fair scholar, and did his work with credit, though it must not be forgotten that his eminently spiritual character, his sound judgment, his tender-heartedness, and his Christ-like spirit were the chief features of his success.

He entered the ministry of the Bible Christian Church at the Hicks Mill Conference, 1831—the same Conference as founded the North American Missions. His first appointment was at the Scilly Islands, and his first pastor was John H. Eynon, the father and founder of Canadian Missions. His second appointment was to the Falmouth Circuit, with his friend and counsellor, Andrew Cory, for his pastor. He was afterwards appointed to the Forest of Dean; then to Taunton; then to Tenderden and Elham; then to London; then to Elham a second time, from which

mission he left for Canada, sailing from Cardiff in South Wales, June 26th, 1839. After narrowly escaping shipwreck—he being taken with the passengers and crew from a sinking vessel in mid-ocean—he landed at Quebec at the end of August, and reached Cobourg Sept. 3rd, 1839.

When John Edwards arrived in Canada, John H. Eynon and John Kemeys were his only fellow-laborers, and the Minutes show that, with his colleagues, he was set down for the large circuit of Upper Canada. A division of labor was made in some measure the next and following years, but nothing like a circuit limitation was made for some three years, until Philip James and Robert Hurley arrived. Then they began to outline circuits that embraced fields as large as most of our Districts to-day. During the thirty years of Mr. Edwards' active ministry in Canada, from 1839 to 1869, he labored in Mariposa, Peterboro', Bowmanville, Cobourg, Belleville, Pickering, Clinton, Exeter, Dereham, and Usborne Stations. In every place he was made useful in leading some souls to Christ, but in some places he was eminently useful in leading many souls to Christ. His health, usually good, was twice seriously impaired by over-exertion in protracted meetings, and the disease which ultimately led him to the grave was unquestionably incurred amid the strain and exertion of special revival services. He was superannuated at the Conference of 1869, and remained for fourteen years on that honorable list, till 1883, God terminated the superannuation and gave him back his life again, young, vigorous, manly, beautiful, glorious, immortal, in His own kingdom with Himself.

John Edwards, as a minister, was singularly gifted in a remarkable degree. His preaching was expository and textual; his expositions of truth clear, forcible, and exhaustive. His mind was original and prolific. As a preacher he had few equals in Canada, for lucidness of exposition, for power of appeal, for mastery over an audience. He was, in the best sense, an able preacher. As a pastor, he was remarkably painstaking and devoted, visiting from house to house, praying much with and for the people. As a Christian man, he had few equals for pureness, for nobleness, for unselfish goodness, for unhesitating consecration to the service of God. He lived in the spirit of prayer. Of him it