

A MEMORIAL

CONCERNING

WILLIAM ALLEN, AN ESTEEMED MINISTER OF
YONGE ST. MONTHLY MEETING
OF FRIENDS.

In the death of our dear friend and brother William Allen, a valued minister, who deceased the 21st of 5th month, 1898, at the residence of Wm. Colquhoun, Gowrie, Ontario, this Meeting would record the deep sense of its loss, and the loving memory of his life and service.

The subject of this sketch was born a slave in East Tennessee, (according to his own reckoning) on the 5th of 4th month, 1821. He suffered many hardships and punishments at times during the years of his slavery; the severest punishment he received, he said, was upon hearing of the death of his mother, when he went into a corner of the field in which he was working and kneeling among some bushes to pray, was discovered by the cruel overseer, and received such an injury to his back that he felt it at times during life.

When about twenty-two years of age his master died, leaving by will all his slaves free, but the heirs kept them in ignorance of their right to freedom for four years, when the Friends of New Hope Monthly Meeting providentially heard that such a will had been made, secured their liberty, and hired Doctor Jesse Ellis and son David to take them to Howard County, Indiana.

In the year 1856 he attended a Friends' school in West Grove, Hamilton County, Indiana. This was William's first school, he made very creditable progress for a beginner, could spell easy words and read in the first Reader when the school closed.

At this time he was a very exemplary young man, moral, honest and industrious. He was a natural orator and would often make speeches in the school and literary societies. After he got so he could read his Testament he always carried one in his pocket, and at every opportunity was reading it, so that in after life very few could quote Scripture more freely or correctly than he.