

THE LATE REV. WILLIAM KING.

Short Sketch of the Life and Work of a Remarkable Minister.

The recent death of Rev. William King, of Buxton and later of Chatham, Ontario, recalls the great work to which that notable



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man devoted the best energies of his palmy days and with which his name will be honorably associated on the record of Canadian history. The Elgin Association was the result of his persistent efforts; the good it accomplished and the principles it vindicated redound at this day to his honor as a man of large practical ideas, and indomitable courage. From an extended sketch of his life and work published in the *Evening Banner* we learn that he was born on November 11th, 1812, near Newton-Limavady, county of Londonderry, Ireland, and was educated at Glasgow University. At the age of 21 he emigrated with his parents to America and settled with them in the Six Mile Woods in June, 1831. He remained with them one year, then went south and settled in Jackson, Louisiana, where he obtained a situation as Rector of Matthew's Academy. He married in 1840 Mary Phares, daughter of John E. Phares, a planter, by whom he had two children, Theophilus and Mary Elizabeth Chalmers. Theophilus died in May, 1844, at Waterville, Ohio. Mrs. King died at Edinburgh, Scotland, February, 1846, and Mary Chalmers died in May, 1846. In 1846 William was licensed in Edinburgh to preach, and was sent by the Free church of Scotland, as a missionary to Canada. In 1847 he went south to Louisiana, and sold a plantation which he owned there, and manumitted his slaves, fifteen in number, brought them to Canada and formed the Buxton settlement for the social and moral improvement of the colored people in Canada. He labored until the close of the American war, when the affairs of the association were wound up and the young men and women who had been educated at the Buxton Mission went south and found useful employment there. In 1853 Mr. King married a second wife, Jemima N. Baxter, daughter of the Rev. David Baxter, minister of Lilliesleaf, Scotland. Mrs. King died on the 7th of November, 1857, at Buxton, and Mr. King retired from public life in 1858, and moved into Chatham, to spend the evening of his days. During the past few years his constant companion and guardian has been his niece, Mrs. Jamieson, who for a number of years labored as a missionary in the Island of Formosa. The kindness and devotion exhibited by this lady for her venerable uncle has been that of no ordinary friend or even relative, and much of the vigor of body and intellect he exhibited, although past the allotted age, has been due to the constant and sagacious attention he has received at the hands of Mrs. Jamieson, who, in her noble work, has been ably assisted by her sister, Miss Straith.

THE ELGIN ASSOCIATION.

As stated above the object of the Elgin Association was the social and moral improvement of the colored population. The settlement sometimes known as the Buxton and sometimes as the Elgin was situated in the Township of Raleigh, County of Kent, about eight miles south east of Chatham. It originally comprised eighteen square miles of the country and was founded in 1849 by Mr. King who was much impressed with the necessity of some such outlet for the negro. The fifteen negroes of his own household in Louisiana formed the nucleus of the settlement and these were soon joined by those who had passed into Canada on the passing of the Fugitive Slave Bill by the United States Congress. It required all Mr. King's eloquence, tact, earnestness, and faith in his project to overcome the prejudices against his scheme, but he succeeded in organizing a company and raising the necessary funds. The area of land which the Association was allowed to hold under the incorporating statute comprised 9,000 acres, and this was divided into lots of fifty acres each. Having been unanimously appointed agent of the Elgin Association, he fixed his residence on the settlement which was formally christened Buxton. The house was located some distance back from the Middle Road running east through the southern part of the settlement. The house is still standing and in a good state of repair. It is a long log building, having a gallery or verandah in front shaded by luxuriant grape vines. It was in the rooms of this house that Harriet Beecher Stowe conceived some of the most inspiring thoughts contained in

her novels, and the place was visited by such men as Lord Elgin and Earl Spencer and others of equal distinction interested in the experiment.

Subsequent to the erection of his own home a church, school house and postoffice were put up, also of logs, immediately fronting the main road. In a short time a number of the fifty acre lots were disposed of to actual settlers at \$2.50 per acre, to be paid in ten equal annual instalments. It was required that each settler should, immediately upon entering his lot, put up his house, not inferior to the prescribed model, 23x18 feet and 12 feet high, and enclosed in front with a picket fence. The land was heavily timbered with elm, oak, hickory, maple and ash, which had to be hewn down, consumed and the brush wood cleared out before an ear of corn could be grown. The difficulties were indeed great, but each man understood on coming in that all he was to receive was the opportunity to make a home and acquire independence. "Work or sink" was the motto and the results abundantly testify that nearly all adopted the former alternative.

Among the supporters of the scheme were Lord Elgin, Judge Skeffington Connor, the first President of the Association, Rev. Dr. Willis, Rev. Dr. Burns, Hon. Sheriff MacKellar, Hon. Alex. MacKenzie and Mr. James Scott Howard, who was treasurer. The first annual meeting of the Association was held on Sept. 3rd, 1851, and the report presented sets forth that there were then forty five actual settlers, holding 2,500 acres of land, and that about a dozen more are making arrangements to remove to the Settlement during the fall. Besides these twelve families have purchased improved farms adjoining the block, and it was expected that by December upwards of seventy families will be in the Settlement. On August 1st. there were 230 acres of cleared land, 190 of which were in corn and other grain crops, 24 in wheat, and 12 in tobacco. Sixty pupils are attending the school and many of the youths show considerable talent. The Settlement grew and thrived for a period extending to 1867 when having most amply vindicated its reason for being—hundreds of one-time slaves having been taught lessons of industry, integrity, morality and good citizenship, of educated, intelligent Christian conduct—having sent abroad from its circle preachers, teachers, lawyers, doctors, musicians, artisans and others, able to leave their imprint for good on society at large, its usefulness being at an end, its affairs were wound up.

It remains to be said that the high respect which Mr. King maintained to the last was testified to at his funeral which was attended by an enormous crowd of affectionate mourners.

Annual Church Meetings.

COOKE'S CHURCH, TORONTO.

The chair was occupied by Mr. P. G. Close, and after Rev. Wm. Patterson had engaged in prayer, Mr. S. Wallace read the report of the session showing that there were 1,184 names on the roll on January 1st, 1891, and to these eighty-three have been added by certificate and 176 by profession of faith; 69 were removed by certificate, six by death, and thirty-five were taken from the roll; the net increase thus is 149 and the present membership is 1,333. The increase is the largest of any year, with one exception, since Mr. Patterson assumed the pastorate. The average attendance was 650. The amount raised for the session and poor fund was \$343.02. Mr. Alison read the report of the Board of Managers. The receipts were as follows: Offerings by envelopes, \$4,720.53; loose collections, \$2,806.20; thanksgiving collection for building fund from the congregation, \$950.31; from the morning Sunday school, \$115.34; from the Bible class, \$233.89; from the primary class, \$14.09; from the young men's prayer meeting, \$10; from the Y.P.S.C.E., \$50; and from the arrears of the subscription list, \$20.25; in all \$1,413.89; the other items being collections for Sunday missions \$169.50; session and poor fund, \$343.02; Ladies' Aid Society, \$202; W.F.M.S., \$258; Sabbath School and Bible class; \$419.97; Christian Endeavor Society, \$214; missions, \$725; Mission Band, \$61.38; young men's prayer meeting, \$31.10; Dorcas Society, \$15.13; Junior Christian Endeavor, \$10; sundries, \$112.70. The total amount raised by the congregation thus amounted to \$11,442.21. The total outlay amounted to \$12,050.85, a balance being due the treasurer of \$315.12, due to the fact that the floating debt has been decreased by nearly \$1,200 during the year. Mr. T. Caswell read the report of the Sunday School, showing that there is an attendance of 690, Miss Pennington presented the report of the Y.P.S.C.E., and the reports of the Junior C. E., the W.F.M.S., the Dorcas Society, the young men's and young women's prayer meetings and the Mission Band.

REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TORONTO.

The chair was occupied by Rev. R. Hume, who has filled the pulpit since the resignation of Rev. Mr. Acheson. The reports showed that during the temporary incumbency of this gentleman the church has had a success greater even than in previous years, and that at no time in its history has there been more marked signs of progress than at present. The Treasurer's report was presented by Mr. R. J. McDowell, and showed that during the year the receipts had amounted to \$1,931 and the expenditure to \$1,912. During the year the total debt of the church has been decreased by \$413. The report of the session was an oral one, and congratulated the congregation on the result of the past year's work. The election of trustees for the ensuing year, which was then proceeded with, resulted in the selection of the following:—Messrs. James Adams, J. B. Woodsides, J. M. Harrison, Charles Montgomerie, Robert Little, E. Goodwin, Donald Grant.