

THE REV. JAMES CURTS.

A busy, honorable and useful career closed to eyes this side the flood in the death of the Rev. James Curts, at Belleville, October 26th, 1892. James Curts was an earnest, laborious and successful Methodist preacher, and has, with a wealth of toil, patience and sacrifice, gone to his reward in the heavens, God give us men like-minded to fill his place! Loving Methodism with his whole soul; in the simplicity of his heart true to her doctrines, usages and polity; rejoicing in the fellowship of her people; coveting not what we sometimes call "the high places," but her fields of work; true up to the measure of his best ability to the demands of every position into which his brethren thrust him; genial in his spirit and always preferring concession to strife; all alive with the Gospel and present in it, and it alone, for the salvation of men, he has demonstrated the power of the Christian religion, the excellency of the Christian character, the divinity of the Christian ministry, the infinity of the abounding goodness and grace of God, and the possibilities, even in a sinful world, of a humble, holy man, and a faithful preacher of the Word of Life. He was born near Preston, York County, July 25th, 1829; at twenty years of age he united with the Methodist Episcopal Church, Canada; entered the ministry in 1852; was married to Miss Adams, Utica, N.Y., in 1855; has served his Church as presiding elder for several years, as Secretary of the old Ontario Conference during the years of its existence, as delegate to General Conferences both before and since the union, as a member of Book Committees and College Boards, as a member of the Committee formulating the basis of union, and as the first President of the Bay of Quinte Conference after union. His brethren much respected, highly esteemed and truly loved him. But more than these church offices and honors, our brother departed valued his circuit ministry and preaching to the people on the fields God and His Church gave him. Hamilton, Dumfries, Vienna, Malahide, Palermo, Brooklin, Queensville, Newmarket, Orono, Brampton, King, Belleville, Newburgh, Oakwood, and Keene all shared in the benefits of his ministerial service and pastoral care, and on all are fruits of his ministry, witnesses that he walked with God, and lovers and admirers for his works' sake and the sake of Christ his beloved Lord.

At the time of his death he had entered the agency of Albert College, Belleville, with a determination and a hope to remove its debt, if God spared him. His sickness was not protracted, and his death at the last came much more quickly than had been at all expected. An abscess of the liver likely precipitated the crisis, and brought the end. With his usual perseverance, amounting almost to an obstinacy in the performance of what he considered duty, he had continued his work till he actually fell in the pulpit. Always mild to others, he was exacting upon himself. We say, "He ought not to have done it," and, "perhaps might have lived longer," but we do not know. We know neither as to the fact, nor as to what is best for the godly man under the circumstances. It is enough that he served his God to the end and is now with his Lord. God gave him a large and a good family, and for them his sacrifices were cheerful and immeasurable. They have the infinite consolation that they had a devoted husband and a noble, irreproachable, generous and loving father. We can but pray, "God comfort them in their affliction," and "The Lord God favor His Church, our Church, with many men like the diligent, honest, kind, cheerful, triumphant James Curts." Earth is richer for his life and labor, society is richer, the Church is richer, the country is richer and better; and heaven is enriched, through the blood of the Lamb, by his character, fellowship and service throughout the endless ages.