

The Provincial Wesleyan.

Published under the direction of the Wesleyan Methodist Conference of Eastern British America.

Volume XVI. No. 47.

HALIFAX, N. S., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1864.

Whole No. 801

Religious Miscellany.

The Meeting-Place.

"The ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads."—ISAIAH LXXV. 10.

Where the faded flower shall freshen—
Fresher nevermore to fade;
Where the shaded sky shall brighten—
Brighter nevermore to shade;
Where the sun-blaze never scorches;
Where the star-beams cease to chill;
Where no tempest stirs the echoes
Of the wood, or wave, or hill;
Where the moon shall wake in gladness,
And the noon the joy prolong;
Where the day-light dials in fragrance,
Mid the burst of holy song—
Brother, we shall meet and rest,
Mid the holy and the best.

Where no shadow shall bewilder;
Where life's vain parade is o'er;
Where the sleep of sin is broken,
And the dreamer dreams no more;
Where the bond is never severed—
Partings, clappings, sob and moan,
Midnight waking, twilight weeping,
Heavy nodding—all are done;
Where the child has found its mother,
Where the mother finds the child;
Where dear families are gathered,
That were scattered on the wild—
Brother, we shall meet and rest,
Mid the holy and the best.

Where the hidden world is revealed;
Where the bright light re-blossoms,
Where the smitten heart is freshened,
Of its buoyant youth resumes;
Where the love that burns so lavishly
On the withering leaves of time,
Shall have leafless flowers to fix on,
In an ever spring-bright clime;
Where we find the joy of loving
As we have never loved before—
Loving on, unceasing, unhidden—
Loving once and evermore—
Brother, we shall meet and rest,
Mid the holy and the best.

Where a blasted world shall brighten
Underneath a bluer sphere,
And softer, gentler, sunshine
Shed its healing splendor here;
Where earth's barren vale shall blossom,
Putting on her robes of green,
And a purer, fairer Eden
Be where only wastes have been;
Where a King in kingly glory,
Such as earth has never known,
Shall assume the righteous sceptre,
Claim and wear the holy crown—
Brother, we shall meet and rest,
Mid the holy and the best.

H. BONAR.

In Memoriam.

H. M. W.

Go to her rest!
Write it in words as bold,
As in the days of old,
That of the great were told,
Though now beneath the mould
Lies lowly she lies.

Go to her rest!
As the notes loudly ring,
As high in faith we spring,
And in glad songs we sing
Praises to heaven's King
For all his grace.

Go to her rest!
Freed from the toils of life,
From pain's encumbering knife,
Storm and confusion rife,
Battle and every strife,
Go to her joy.

Go to her rest!
Oh may we meet her there
'Neath heaven's sky so fair,
And freed from earthly care,
Enter the glories vast
At the right hand.

J. G. A.

Halifax, Nov. 15, 1864.

Religion and Business.

The City of Exeter has just been called to mourn the loss of two of its most remarkable men, Mr. William Brock, and Mr. John Dinham, both of whom beautifully exemplified the apostolic injunction, "Diligent in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord." They were real Christians, Mr. Brock's death occurred very unexpectedly. He was only fifty-one years of age. It was discovered that a malignant tumor had formed in the lower part of the body. It grew rapidly, and in eight weeks' time he ceased to breathe. Mr. Brock was the head of a large trading firm, which, by his industry, tact, and sound judgment, he had advanced to the highest scale of local trade. He served his apprenticeship in the establishment, of which, during a good many years, he became the chief, and, for a time, the sole proprietor. Making large profits, he had the means, and delighted to use them, for promoting many good objects. He was a devoted member in his religious body, but utterly unobtrusive in his religious opinions. Towards a Wesleyan chapel-building scheme he contributed £3,000; to the jubilee of the Wesleyan Society last week he gave £5,000; he subscribed liberally to schools, and his name stood for £100 toward the Albert Memorial at Exeter. His benevolence generally is said by the local papers to have been "unrestrained and free-handed." All classes of the people heard of his illness with sorrow, and of his death with profound grief. The funeral procession was the longest ever seen in the city, and the whole route to the cemetery was lined with spectators. The shops throughout the city were closed, and the bells of the several churches tolled the note of general mourning.

The career of Mr. Dinham was more remarkable than that of his younger fellow-townsmen. He was seventy-six years old when the summons came. "The news of his departure," says the *Western Times*, "caused a deep pang in Exeter, but would the death of his bishop; and strikingly expressive of its depth was the fact that from the cathedral tower to the smallest

chapel the passing bell was tolled for this plain, honest, kind-hearted citizen." This message was not paid to his memory because he was a man of great talents or vast wealth. It was simply, in the words of our contemporary, "the homage which the world has virtue enough to pay to goodness." Surely all our readers will say that the following biographic sketch is no less interesting than instructive.

John Dinham was born at Kerton, in August, 1788. His father was an honest resident of that village, something above the working-class, and held the office of bailiff, or sort of steward, under the then Lord Courtney. The thirty and industrious character of his parents was shown in the fact, that while the husband was able to attend to his duties as under-steward of the Powderham estates, the earnings were increased by a small shop at home, so that they were enabled to send their son to Chudleigh school, to acquire those elements of education which, though always indispensable, the rustic of that period made of untold value. When about fourteen he was apprenticed to a grocer in Exeter. John Dinham married as soon as his time was out, and entered into business at once. His first wife's father was a silversmith, and the young couple started in both lines of business, having the grocery on one side of the shop and the jewelry on the other. In the hands of a man of such industry and virtuous habits, the natural success was—the business succeeded, and the jewelry department was particularly prosperous. This was the department, however, strange to say, through which he was to meet a bitter taste of adversity. A number of foreigners at that period—the latter end of the great French war—were accustomed to travel the country selling jewelry. There was a large round of these customers who used to replenish their boxes from Mr. Dinham's stores, and whose debts to him were considerable. As soon as the war was ended, and the continent was open for their return, the greater number vanished with their stocks, leaving their debts unpaid. This, though a great loss, would not have sunk him under water but for another event, the introduction of German silver. This so depreciated the value of his stock that, when it had to be sold, though the original wholesale price would have been capable of paying twenty-four shillings in the pound, so little did it fetch under the hammer that John Dinham became a bankrupt. Great as this trouble was, a heavier one had preceded it—the wife had gone to the grave with a sorrow to him which well-nigh drove him after. The business in which he had spent some of the best days of his life was now broken up, and he nearly broke himself. Possessed of nothing more than he stood upright in and the watch his creditors gave him back out of kindness, he took his solitary way to a room in Okehampton street. As he was looking, in melancholy mood, out of the window, and musing what the next step would be, he saw a poor ragged fellow passing, and lame withal. Destitute as he was, greater destitution was before him, and lameness in addition. Contrasting his own case with that, he girded up the reins of his mind, hope sprang up, and his soul was comforted. He had now seen his head as the servant to others, and he became a clerk in a carpet warehouse. In this night of affliction his character shines with redoubled lustre. Though all of worldly prosperity was gone, his humble lodging was a home for the declining days of his widowed mother, and with her he shared his approved industry. By day he served his employers in the stipulated hours, by night he worked at his desk for others, and by his resolute industry contrived to pay the lawyers their claims upon him for his bankruptcy, besides providing things honest in the sight of all men.

The next change in his checkered life led on to fortune. "The London Tea Company," who had branches in different parts of the country, opened one in Exeter, and were by that hand which "shapes our ends" led to make John Dinham their manager. This occurred about 1827. After awhile, the company wishing to transfer the concern to other hands, Mr. Dinham became the managing partner, and with what signal success the business had been conducted need not here be told. He was now again fairly on his feet, though without his difficulties. Yet, great as they may have been, they were overcome; and now he set himself to the accomplishment of an object, the thought of which had never been a day absent from his upright soul—the payment of all old creditors, not the sum of owing only, but the compound interest up to the time of their discharge. Noble example! About a dozen years ago he called them together at a feast of integrity, and there, kindling every debt to the last farthing, he charged his living partners with the discharge of his debts, and in the presence of all the guests, he gave up his business, and in pursuance of noble objects—not those debts before which the world's trumpet brays the loudest, but which tended most to instruct the ignorant, comfort the wretched, and raise the fallen. Indeed, every form of human need found a discreet, liberal, sympathizing helper in John Dinham. Shall we call in witness to the fact? Why they spring from every charitable institution, every religious community, every school for the poor, every society for the improvement of working-men and youth; from every garret cellar; ay, and how many an upright heart under clean brocade, and in a noble mansion. Among the most prominent of his public acts of charity we should think of that Californian Eden in North-street, those Free Cottages.

Next, but not of less value, was the ground that he turned into a paradise was long ago a piece of waste land. Our good citizen, indeed, heard it was going to be used as a place for shows, circuses, and such things. He saw it would be the hold of every foul spirit, to the longest ever seen in the city, and the whole route to the cemetery was lined with spectators. The shops throughout the city were closed, and the bells of the several churches tolled the note of general mourning.

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God hath set mankind in families, no less for religion, than domestic purposes. It is unquestionably true that parents cannot meet rightly all the obligations they are under to their children without piety; nor can piety parents fulfill all their duty as Christians, without sustaining the altar of family prayer; and whatever shall add to the interest of family devotion, should be included. Singing, whenever this is practicable, will increase the pleasure of the hour of prayer.—*Morning Star.*

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Religious Intelligence.

China.

For many years Canton was the only port and that a Christian missionary might visit. And although the way is now open to the very capital of the empire, Canton is yet a point of great missionary interest and influence. The English Missionary Bishop of Victoria reports of a late visit he made to Canton as follows:

It is more than nineteen years since I first visited this city, and the change which I have witnessed is so great, that I feel it necessary to give a brief account of the progress of the Christian cause here. I was first privileged to witness in the local Chinese authorities is very remarkable, and encouraging for the friends of missions. In 1844 we were allowed through the streets by crowds veneration most insulting words, and threats, except in the immediate neighbourhood of the foreign factories. One or twice, when I passed for a few moments under the arched gateway of the city, and the multitude so great, and the mob-shower such mischievous, that I was obliged to effect a secure retreat from the threatened violence, and never ventured to repeat the experiment upon their forbearance. To have entered inside the city would have been attended with the certainty of severe bodily injury from the infuriated mob. The protection of the mandarins applied to foreigners in the streets of the mandarin, served to fan the flame of popular animosity against the subject of Christian nation.

Now, however, all this is changed. Wherever a foreigner walks he rides he hears no insulting words, and no mob-shower. The streets are now at liberty to visit every portion of the city and suburbs, and missionaries are able to pursue their work among the people without hindrance. The Anglo-French occupation of the city for four years entirely removed all previous restrictions, and rendered it impossible for the local government to revert (even if willing to do so) to their former invidious exclusion of foreigners from the city. All this change has of course been the result of political causes, and the severe lessons resulted during the bombardment and capture of the city.

I have great satisfaction and feel much thankful to be able to state that the progress of my connection with missionary labor in this city, I have been privileged to see more abundant fruits of missionary success than in any former year. During the present year I have been called to confirm sixty Chinese converts, and to ordain two native deacons of our Church. On Easter Sunday last I admitted the first minister of our Church to holy orders at Shanghai. During the present week I have also admitted to the ministry a second native Christian, and a large concourse of Chinese worshippers in our cathedral, and under circumstances of more than ordinary solemnity and interest.

At the present time there are about twelve hundred Chinese Protestants scattered over different parts of the southern and western suburbs, who have their schools and chapels in various localities, both within and without the city. Though the baptized converts do not probably exceed in all one hundred and fifty persons, their spirit of attention to the duties of their religion, and their readiness to listen and receive the Gospel, which these brethren state to be full of encouragement at the present time.

Compound Interest Given.

I knew a rich merchant in Petersburg, Russia, who, at his own cost, supported a number of native missionaries in India, and gave like a prince to the cause of God at home. I asked him, one day, how he could do it? He replied, "When I served the devil I did it on a large scale, and at a princely expense; and when, by his grace, God called me more than the devil had had. But how I can give so much, you must ask of God, who enables me to give it. At my conversion I told the Lord his cause should have a part of all that my business brought me; and every year since I made him that promise has brought me in about double the amount that I gave to his cause." How true that Bunyan says: "A man there was, some called him mad; 'The more he cast away, the more he had.' 'There is,' said God, 'that giveth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than he desireth, and it tendeth to poverty.' God will be debtor to no one. He pays compound interest for all that, by faith, is put into his bank."

Restitution.

We give the following on the authority of the Rev. A. A. B., a really personally acquainted with all the parties concerned, and who some years ago, narrated the incident in a sermon, with marked effect concerning names and dates.

S—O—a classmate, for many years in the Methodist Episcopal Church, once informed me that when a boy he was apprenticed to a man residing in the village of B—, a young apprentice in the evening school, who was also the keeper of the village inn. On an election day himself, and a fellow apprentice older than he, were employed to attend the bar. In the evening, having taken from customers a considerable sum of money, the older boy abstracted a dollar from the till, placing half the amount in the hands of young B—. Years after the young apprentice in due time became a married man, member of Church and class-leader, respected and beloved and revered by all, and especially distinguished for uprightness and particularly in all business transactions. The incident above mentioned being unknown all the while to any one save the two boys.

Though desirous for his youthful friend, his conscience still pleaded for restitution of the ill-gotten half-dollar. Learning that A—B— was preaching in the community where his employer's relatives resided, if any yet survived, he sat down, and drawing up a note, sent a receipt and a promise for the long intervening years, he ascertained that seven dollars was the amount due. After long and diligent search, one daughter only, now an aged woman, was found to be the nearest and only surviving representative of the defunct employer, living in S—, Pa. The sum of seven dollars was paid, and the note and promise for the long intervening years, he ascertained that seven dollars was the amount due. After long and diligent search, one daughter only, now an aged woman, was found to be the nearest and only surviving representative of the defunct employer, living in S—, Pa. 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