

## APPENDIX.

EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER OF THE REV. RUFUS BABCOCK, D. D.,  
OF NEW-YORK.

### SOME RECOLLECTIONS OF THE LATE REV. E. D. VERY.

WHEN he was nearly thirteen years old, I entered on my duties as associate pastor of the first Baptist Church in Salem, Massachusetts, his native place. His family and connexions were attached to the congregation which I served, and I knew him as an intelligent, capable boy. Some four or five years later, he was an apprentice in the adjoining town of Danvers. At just that period it was too fashionable for a large class of young men in that vicinity to become or pretend to be *Universalists*. Many efforts, and with some appearance of success, were used to draw Edward into this snare.

I think it was in the summer of 1831 that a season of revival was enjoyed by the Baptist Church in Danvers, then under the faithful pastoral care of the Rev. J. Barnaby. I was invited to preach there one week-day evening. Young Very and a fellow-apprentice, with whom he was very intimate, sat in the singing gallery opposite me. God sent the word with power to the hearts of both of them. They retired to weep and pray, and mutually confess that the sandy foundation on which they had been trying to build their hope for eternity was insecure. The following day, his fellow-apprentice found some specious Universalist tract, to gloss over the plain and pungent Scriptural instruction which had made him tremble, and he went back; while Edward, at evening, sought again the house of the Lord, and heard another solemn appeal, from the appropriate words, "Remember Lot's wife." This decided his case, and very soon afterward, seeking the Lord with all his heart, he found the "good hope through grace" which ever after sustained and comforted him.

From this time he became a faithful and consistent disciple, honouring the Lord by a prompt obedience to His requirements. From that early period, for more than twenty years he has been enabled, by the sustaining grace of Christ, to keep his religious profession untarnished—to bear his lamp undimmed to the end of his course.

As soon as he could honourably procure his discharge from his employer, he returned to Salem, and fitted himself for entering College.

As I then occupied the Presidency at Waterville, it was not strange that he chose to enter there, and most vigorous and successful were his endeavours to store his mind with useful knowledge. By uncommon diligence and assiduity, he was enabled to accomplish three years' prescribed study in two years, and actually graduated with honour at Dartmouth College (he and I having both removed from Waterville in the meantime,) in two years and ten months from his entrance into the Freshman Class. If the fervour of his piety was somewhat deaenied by the too intense absorption of his mind in his Collegiate studies, it is but the too uniform experience under similar circumstances; and the honourable consistency of his Christian deportment was conscientiously preserved. He spent but one year in the Theological Seminary, and has since devoted himself, as a laborious, faithful, successful pastor, to four Churches, in each of which he has had seals to his ministry, and warm, loving friends, who will now deeply mourn the common loss of Zion in his removal.

It was in the autumn of 1845 that I passed a few days with him, during his settlement at Belfast, Maine. It gave me a better opportunity than I had before enjoyed to learn his habits of study, his method of pastoral labour, and daily intercourse among the members of his flock. With honest and unexaggerated truthfulness, I can testify that rarely have I found in any of our younger Ministers so much to approve, so little to be amended. The prudence, the fidelity, the laboriousness and the sterling good sense and solid ability which he demonstrated, were adapted to call forth many thanksgivings to God, and to suggest the desire—*O si sic omnes!* (Oh, that all were like him!)