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JOSEPH ALLEINE.

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The approaching bi-centennial anniversary of English Nonconformity, is being heralded by various publications, designed to impart knowledge and awaken interest in reference to our Puritan forefathers. Having beguiled the tedium of a voyage across the Atlantic, with the perusal of one of these—“Stanford’s Life of Alleine,” we propose while the memory of it is fresh, and the impressions produced by it vivid, to transfer a little of its inspiration to the pages of the *Canadian Independent*.

Many, with ourselves, will remember Joseph Alleine’s name in connexion with a little book entitled “*An Alarm to the Unconverted* ;” one of the most awakening blasts ever blown by a spiritual watchman. Never shall we forget its loud reverberations through the dreary recesses of a soul unreconciled to God! All who share with us such recollections, will be glad to know somewhat more of this faithful Boanerges of a bygone day.

The subject of this sketch was born at Devizes, early in the year 1634. He was the fourth child of Mr. Tobie Alleine, a tradesman “of credit and renown,” and a staunch Puritan, who did and suffered much for conscience sake, in times that “tried men’s souls.” Joseph’s boyhood was passed amid troubled scenes. Civil war prevailed much of the time. Before he was eleven years old, his native town underwent two severe sieges. The presence of danger, and the prevalence of fear respecting “the life that now is,” seem to have been divinely used as means of awakening religious feeling in many minds, that of Joseph Alleine among the rest. “His early setting forth in the christian race,” is traced by his biographer very much to this. The death of an elder brother, who was a clergyman, seems also to have contributed to the same blessed result. Young Joseph became anxious to “succeed his brother in the work of the ministry.” Parental consent was gladly given, and in 1649, the Protectorate under Cromwell being established, and peace restored, Alleine began his curriculum in the then *Puritan University of Oxford*. While at College, he was accustomed to “toil terribly.” Thoroughly in earnest, and deeply impressed with the value of time, he so worked that his profiting appeared to all. Flattering offers of preferment were made him before the completion of his course, but, he had a “passion for seats,” and steadily kept the work of the ministry in view. Before leaving college, he preached much in adjacent villages, and spent a good deal of time in labouring for the spiritual good of the prisoners in the County Jail. In the