

Considerably more than half a century has elapsed since Mr. Burpee experienced the renewing power of Divine grace. When his mind was first led to a consideration of sacred things is not known, but he made a public profession of religion, and united with the Congregational Church, then under the pastoral care of the Rev. Mr. Dunbar. The time was one of general awakening, and both churches—the Congregational and the Methodist, the latter then under Rev. Mr. Birt's superintendence—received large accessions. He had borne the burden of sin, felt the pangs of a guilty conscience, shed the tears of penitence, and renouncing every other ground of dependence, thrown himself by faith on the merits of Christ's atonement.

From that time he became decidedly pious, and manifested the reality of the change by all those scriptural marks which show the regeneration of our corrupted nature. He soon took an active part in the various services of the sanctuary, and evinced a sincere desire to persuade others to flee from the wrath to come. In the house of mourning, and at the bedside of the dying, he was ever a welcome visitor, and his earnest pleadings at the throne of grace, rendered such scenes much less sad than they otherwise would have been. By thus employing his talents his own soul was greatly blessed, and he felt a longing desire to be wholly devoted to the work of the ministry. He had, indeed, at one time, decided to do so, and had started for Europe to secure a theological education, when circumstances, the particulars of which we are not acquainted with, led to his abandonment of the idea. Doubtless, in this, he followed the indications of Providence; the Church here had need of him, and subsequent events clearly proved that this was his allotted sphere of action. Shortly after this he married Miss Coburn, in whom he found a real helpmate, and with whom he spent nearly fifty years of happy wedded life.