

Silas Tertius Rand.

The life of Silas Tertius Rand is one well worthy of profound respect and consideration. Nova Scotia has reason to be proud of such a noble and gifted son whose every effort was directed toward the betterment of his fellowmen, and who, for forty years, struggled with an almost hopeless task. Of its outcome we shall treat later; at this stage it suffices to indicate generally why this man and his work were great.

Silas Rand, the father of S. T. Rand, was a prosperous farmer, the son of an English pioneer, who settled in Nova Scotia after the expulsion of the Acadians. He was married three times and had a family of twenty-two children. His second wife was Deborah Tupper, the mother of Silas Tertius who was born on May 18th, 1810.

Living amid humble yet pleasant environment, Silas Tertius Rand early became a student, inheriting his talent for languages and poetry from his mother, who, as he describes her, was a poetess of no mean ability. While yet a small boy, his father taught him to read, but the greater part of his time was spent in work about the farm. Since the schools of those days were very poor, his early education was largely obtained through his own zealous and untiring efforts. For three winters he attended night school, which he left at the age of eleven. What a powerful influence for good the lad's Christian home must have exerted! Here was laid the first and deepest foundations of his excellent character. The very scenery which surrounded him inspired his mind with that spirit of self-sacrifice and sympathy which so characterized it in later years. By his character, environment and training, he was destined to become a preacher and missionary.

When twenty years old he mastered the fundamentals of arithmetic, after which he studied Latin for four weeks at Horton Academy. However, through lack of funds, he was obliged to resort to the family trade of brick-laying, to which he had apprenticed himself at the age of eighteen. This was in the spring of 1833. In 1834 he was ordained for the Baptist ministry by "Father" Manning, and took charge of the church at Parrsboro, where he continued the study of Latin together with Greek and Hebrew. In 1836 he went back to Horton Academy where he remained four