



Communications designed for this paper must be accompanied by the name of the writer in confidence. We do not assume responsibility for the opinions of our correspondents.

The Late Rev. Wm. Bennett.

At the Conference held in St. John, N. B., in 1856, one of the delegates from Canada remarked that what struck him most as a visitor from another Conference to that of Eastern British America was the large proportion of veterans in the field—of old men whose white hair spoke of advanced life—and yet whose robust frames showed promise of future vigorous exertions in the cause of Christ. Since that period, brief as it is, several of our older Ministers have been removed by death. Three, who had retired from the active work of the Ministry, and were known as Supernumeraries, or worn out Ministers, died during last year; and our Obituary this week records the death of another—highly venerated and esteemed among his brethren—his name redolent with the reminiscences of the early days of Methodism in these Provinces—the last remaining one of that little band who, headed by the VENERABLE WM. BLACK, visited every portion of these Eastern Provinces in the beginning of the present century, preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ, but who for many years has been compelled to retire from regular or settled engagement in Ministerial life. From very scanty materials at present within our reach we propose to give a brief memorial of our departed Brother, which may serve to present the leading features in his history, and perpetuate his memory in the Church; feeling that the chronicle of the decease, and to trace out the labors of a Minister of Christ in these Provinces, just removed from our midst, who was a fellow passenger across the Atlantic in 1800 with the Rev. William Black, who was ordained by Bishops Asbury and Whatcoat, and was a contemporary with a Coke, a Garretson, and others, invest his present effort to us with a deep and powerful interest, and we trust will equally interest our numerous readers.

THE REV. WM. BENNETT was born in the year 1770, and consequently was in his 88th year when he died. He resided in youth in or near Manchester in England. When in his 24th year he first received his token of membership in the Methodist Society. In two years after this he was appointed Leader of a Class in that town; and in June, 1798, he received a plan as a Local Preacher. While thus engaged his mind evidently became impressed with a desire for a larger sphere of usefulness; with the immediate steps we are unacquainted, but at the Conference which was held in London in 1800—when Robert Newton and Jabez Bunting were ending their first year of Probation Wm. Bennett entered his name, and was appointed a Missionary to Nova Scotia. On the 19th of August, immediately after the close of the Conference, he left his friends at Manchester, and set out for Liverpool, to join the Rev. Wm. Black and three other Missionaries who had received appointments to labor in the same country. On the 26th of August he bid adieu to his native land, and after a boisterous passage of six weeks he landed in Halifax on the 6th of October.

In a letter written home after his arrival he says, "here all was new to me except the friendship and Christian experience of the people of God." In one week after his arrival he was on his way by land, preaching as he went, to Shelburne, his first Circuit. He was next appointed to Liverpool, where he remained one year, and was afterwards stationed in Cumberland, then in Windsor, then for a brief period in St. John, and Annapolis.

In one of his letters he speaks of attending a Conference in Annapolis, where himself and three others were recommended for ordination, to obtain which they journeyed to New York in company, were kindly received by the Bishops and Ministers there and by Bishops Asbury and Whatcoat were ordained Ministers of Christ.

About this time a letter was received by Mr. Black from the Rev. Jabez Bunting which, among other matter, contained the following allusion to the subject of these remarks: "Your account of Mr. Bennett is very pleasing to me. I greatly love him in the truth, and most earnestly wish for his increasing comfort and usefulness. Pray offer my most brotherly and affectionate respects to him," &c., &c.

It is not our purpose to write a memoir of our late Brother, even if we had the materials within reach. Our limits forbid this; but we may notice his various appointments while in active work. Prior to the year 1808, the Magazine contained only the stations of the Ministers appointed at the Annual Conference for the English work; but in the September No. of the year named we find the Foreign Stations introduced for the first time. The whole of British North America, except Newfoundland, was thus designated: "Liverpool, N. S., Wm. Black, Jas. Mann, Duncan McColl, Wm. Bennett, Jas. Bulphit, Wm. Sutcliffe, Jas. Knowlan—all placed under the supervision of Mr. Black." In subsequent years different Circuits were named; but for several years the British work in Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia came under the head of a single District. Our late departed friend is believed to see a mighty change in these respects—greater than generally falls within the limit of a single life. In 1809-10 Mr. B. was stationed in Halifax. Some interesting allusions to him and his labours might be culled from letters from other brethren as we find them in the old magazines, but we only find one other letter from himself besides the one we have already noticed.

In the year 1811, he stands for Cumberland and Shelburne on the English Minutes, which must have been a mistake. In the year 1812, when Mr. Black became Supernumary, the General Superintendency devolved upon Mr. Bennett, which office he

sustained till he became a Supernumary himself in 1820. In 1813, he was stationed at Horton; in 1814-15 at Halifax; in 1816 at Horton and Windsor; and in 1819 at Newport—at which period the whole number of ministers was eighteen in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

In the year 1816 he sustained a very important relation to the work in being appointed with Mr. Black as a delegation from the British Conference to the American General Conference at Baltimore to confer respecting the peculiar position of Methodism in Upper and Lower Canada. A very interesting report of their mission, addressed to the British Conference, shows the faithful manner in which their trust was discharged.

We have followed our late Brother very briefly and imperfectly through the twenty years of his active ministry. It is not so easy to follow him in his retirement from his ranks. For many years he resided at Newport, while the latter part of his life was spent at Halifax. While he was able he was always ready to give pulpit assistance as it might be required, and for some years he officiated as Chaplain to the Penitentiary. His constitution was very robust originally, and he was a laborious and zealous preacher. He was distinguished by great affection for his brethren in the ministry, and for great diligence in his pastoral and ministerial duties. He was a good man, and his end was eminently peaceful and happy. The closing years of his life were marked by a good deal of personal suffering and affliction, but in unflinching patience he possessed his soul. He seemed to delight in religious conversation and prayer. He lived to see his children comfortably settled in life, the faithful and unflinching care of one of them cheering him through his last affliction. He was thrice married, and a widow, herself feeble, mourns his removal.

For some weeks before death he was evidently unconscious nearly all the time. Two days before death, his consciousness was restored, and the writer of this had a long and interesting conversation with him upon his hope in the immediate prospect of death. His testimony was clear; his prospect bright; his hope well grounded; his faith unwavering. After prayer with him, to which he heartily responded, he prayed fervently himself with considerable strength of voice, and then gave us a dying man's blessing with great solemnity and fervor. It was a most interesting moment: the visit was apparently casual, but eminently providential; for in a very short time he relapsed into unconsciousness, and never recovered from it; but on Friday morning, Nov. 6th, he sweetly slept in Jesus.

His remains were interred in Camp Hill Cemetery on Monday last, a large number of friends paying their last tribute of respect at his funeral.

The Indian News.

We breathe again. During the fortnight preceding the arrival of the telegraphic summary of the Indian Mail which was published on Monday, one dreadful thought was common to many hearts in England, though few persons dared even to hint it to each other. Sir Charles Napier, it is believed, the only individual who ventured bluntly to place it before a public assembly, and we are not surprised to find it stated that "immense sensation" was created by his announcement, at the meeting last week at Bury, that in the event of the fall of Lucknow—an event which the complexion of the then recent intelligence led many to regard as already accomplished fact—the only course open to the British Commander there, to save the women and children from a repetition of the horrors of Delhi, of Jhansi, and of Cawnpore, was to destroy them by their own act. But, if few persons ventured to utter an idea so frightful to another, and fewer still to place it before the public, they were not few who feared that the hand of heaven who had endured so bravely and so long at Lucknow would find themselves reduced at last to the most terrible alternative which the imagination can suggest, and rather than surrender to the atrocities of Nana Sahib those whom they held dearest, would choose for them between the "tender bullets" of husbands and fathers and the still more summary operation of an exploding magazine. Without pausing to examine the morality or expediency of such a decision in the contingency assumed, it is with joy and gratitude we learn, not only that no such disaster had occurred down to the 2nd of September, quite three weeks later than the Lucknow portion of the news published a fortnight ago, but that the position of the little garrison had materially improved, and that the relief of the place was looked forward to with confidence. The fears entertained also for the diminished band with whom General Havelock had again been compelled to fall back upon Cawnpore after his long career of victory, do not now seem at all likely to be justified by the result. The position of the garrison there appears perfectly secure for the time, and a strong force under Sir Jas. Outram had reached Allahabad, and was expected at Cawnpore a week later, when the combined columns would push forward to the relief of Lucknow in such strength as to leave little doubt of the successful issue of the movement. The mutineers still occupied Delhi, but the hour of doom for them was rapidly approaching, as the siege train was so close at hand that a strong body of the rebel garrison, stimulated by the courage which is akin to despair, made a sortie to intercept it, and were almost out to pieces in the attempt. Mutiny had shown itself elsewhere in one or two places which had previously been tranquil, but the combustible material was the same which had for three months deflagged throughout Bengal, the revolting regiments being almost exclusively of the Army of the Presidency, in an instance the few remaining corps of which the slightest confidence now promptly suppressed; in every revolt in which the rebels ventured to make a stand in the field, they have been signally overthrown; the dreaded season of the Mohurrum has passed off without additional disturbance in any quarter; the reinforcements despatched from home were beginning to arrive in strength; and the aspect of affairs in India generally, as described by this Mail, is decidedly more cheering than it had been for many previous weeks.

We must examine the despatches a little more in detail, however, and winnow the chaff from the grain; for, if we accept as new matter all their statements as to the successes achieved by our arms, we shall be like the miser who, in counting his hoard, reckons half of it twice over, and thus estimates the total at fifty per cent. beyond its real amount. Considerable prominence is given to the statement that— "General Havelock gained his ninth victory on the 16th of August, driving the rebels from a strong position near Bithoor which they desperately defended. After the battle he retired to Cawnpore, where he awaits reinforcements before advancing to the relief of Lucknow, where the rebels were repelled with great loss, and the garrison are bravely holding out."

Now, this "ninth victory" of Havelock is, from a comparison of dates, clearly the one described a fortnight ago in the statement that— "Bithoor having been re-occupied (during his unsuccessful movement towards Lucknow) by mutineers from Saugor and other places, numbering about 4,000, with five guns, General Havelock attacked and carried the position on the 16th, capturing two guns."

The defeat of the Dinapore mutineers by the force under Major Eyre, is also evidently the same affair described in a former despatch, which mentioned, too, the fact of the garrison of Lucknow having obtained large supplies of provisions during the temporary absence of a portion of the besieging force, drawn off to menace General Havelock's column. On the other side, the fears entertained of an attack on Benares and Allahabad by the Oude insurgents, and the defection of the 5th Regiment of Bengal Irregular Cavalry, have also been matter of previous mention; and their repetition just now is not to be taken as indicating any fresh embarrassment. These inaccuracies corrected, and due allowance being made for the new facts of a disastrous character reported, the general tenor of the intelligence by the present mail is still decidedly encouraging, and seems to justify the anticipation that the next fortnight's arrival will acquaint us with the assault of Delhi, and the relief of Lucknow.

As regards the former city, from the first moment when our troops sat down before it the opinion of the successive Commanders was, that its capture could not be effected without a siege train, save at such an enormous expenditure of life on our side, as to render such a course highly inexpedient. The guns were within a week's march of the camp at the date of the latest advices, and that the mutineers themselves expected decisive operations to follow immediately on their arrival, is assumed from the desperate sort of their intercept, which indeed, as we have said, in their own almost total destruction. The besieging force under General Wilson before Delhi had received large augmentations from the Punjab and Cashmere; further important reinforcements were expected speedily; and Sir John Lawrence estimated our probable strength at 15,000 men by the middle of September, at that point.

Respecting Lucknow, the most cheering anticipations are indulged in India. Indeed one account goes so far as to say that "the safety of the garrison is now perfectly secured." The previous mail acquainted us that they had obtained fresh supplies of food from without, but the present one indicates the extent of the relief so acquired by stating that it would enable them to hold the place without difficulty to the 15th of September, by which date, at the latest, Havelock and Outram expected to reach the place with their combined forces. The fact is noteworthy on another ground; though Oude is our most recent acquisition in India, so little dislike of our rule is entertained by its people, that, on the temporary withdrawal of a portion of the besieging force, the resources of the country were at once placed at the disposal of the handful of Englishmen who could themselves scarcely venture beyond the walls of the capital to procure them. 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there as cordial as it was well deserved. He forcibly showed that India had received many ameliorations from her British rulers, which its native princes, were to regain ascendancy, neither would nor could perpetuate.

General Intelligence.

Colonial. New Brunswick. The perpetrators of the dreadful crime which we reported last week had been committed in the neighborhood of this city, have been discovered and arrested much sooner than was anticipated.

neutrality law. What shall constitute violations of the law is another matter, and it is to be determined upon evidence when a case shall be made before the U. S. courts.

KANSAS TO BE A FREE STATE.—The end of the long and warily protracted struggle in the territory of Kansas is happily now close at hand, and it is pretty clearly ascertained that the contest has resulted in favor of erecting the territory into a free state.

Missionary Anniversaries.

HALIFAX DISTRICT. HALIFAX.—The Annual Sermons, the 4th Sabbath in Feb. Deputation.—The President of the Conference, the Chairman of the District.

Commercial.

Halifax Markets. Corrected for the "Provincial Wesleyan" up to 4 o'clock, Wednesday, November 11. Broad, Navy, per cwt. 17 6d a 20s

New Advertisements.

Advertisements intended for this Paper should be sent in by 10 o'clock on Wednesday morning at the latest. SOPAS, CLOCKS, CHAIRS, CARPETINGS, &c. Acadia Furniture Warehouse, North of the Market Square.

Autumn and Winter Goods.

LIVERPOOL HOUSE, 18 GRANVILLE STREET. HAVING just completed our Fall Importations, from London, Manchester, and Glasgow, we are now prepared to offer to the public a full assortment in all the various departments of

ALPINE HAIR BALM.

Restoring Gray Hair to its Original Color. Restored to its Original Color. Restored to its Original Color. Restored to its Original Color.

THEATRE DESTROYED BY FIRE.—On Sabbath morning last, about 4 o'clock, the house known as Paddock's Building was discovered to be on fire. The several fire companies were early on the ground, and brought their engines to bear upon it with characteristic energy.

Young Men's Christian Association.

The fortnightly meetings of this Association were inaugurated on Tuesday evening last by a Public Meeting, held in the old Wesleyan Chapel, Argyle Street.

Missionary Anniversaries.

SACKVILLE DISTRICT. GUYVILLE. Rev. H. Davies, Sackville, Sept 27-28. Point de Vue. Messrs. Narrows, Point de Vue, Oct 1-2. Messrs. McCarry, Point de Vue, Oct 1-2.

Marriages.

At Newport, by Rev. A. McNeil, Mr. Henry GARROD, to Miss Francis GIBSON, both of Amherst. At Grandby, on the 8th ult., by Rev. G. O. HODGINS, Mr. Thomas HANDLEY, to Miss Jane REYNOLDS, both of the first named place.

Deaths.

At Paris, France, on the 25th of Oct., CLARENCE, wife of Wm. Drew, Esq. in the 58th year of her age. On the 2nd of Nov. MARY, widow of the late Thomas Stewart, in the 84th year of her age.

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United States.

WASHINGTON, October 23.—The President and Cabinet are panic-stricken by the falling off of the revenue, and the general commercial revulsion of the country. At first they thought they would relieve the distress of the country, by a liberal depletion of the treasury.

Periodicals Received.

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE.—The American reprint of the October number of this standard publication has been received from Messrs. Leonard Scott & Co., New York, through their Agents here, E. G. Fuller & Co. of the American Book Store.

Missionary Anniversaries.

CHARLOTTETOWN DISTRICT. RIVER PHILIP CIRCUIT. TRURO, Dec. 29.—Deputation. Brethren TEMPLE and MILLAR, in the morning, and GURSON and SHIP HARBOUR, 2nd week in November.

Shipping News.

PORT OF HALIFAX. ARRIVED. Wednesday, November 4. Steamer Ontario, Long, Liverpool. Captain Joseph Decker, Philadelphia. Briggs, New York.

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Country dealers who buy for Cash will have great inducements offered in the purchase of Patent Medicines and Perfumery at the Medical Warehouse of G. E. MORTON & CO., No. 20 Granville Street, Halifax.

