



Biographical Sketch  
of the  
Famous and Brilliant Canadian  
Evangelist, Robert Kidd

By the  
Favorite Scribe, Judson Davidson

"Integer vitae, scelerisque purus."—Hor.

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## PREFACE.

IN setting forth a second edition of my biographical sketch of the renowned Canadian evangelist, Mr. Robert Kidd, some prefatory remarks will be *en regle*. This brochure is at the present time published pretty much as it came from my pen in 1906, but it has been revised, emendated and by this preface augmented.

It is all very well to say Mr. Kidd was this or that. I can aver, as Hamlet said of Yorick, "I knew him well." Moreover, I was of his fellowship. Therefore I was in a position to write a sketch of his life.

I desire, here and now, to say something of Mr. Kidd's traits and parts. He possessed great powers of imagination and flow of language. It was as an inspirational speaker, without previous preparation, that he was almost *sans peer*. He could speak extemporaneously with eloquence, fire, fluency, power, passion and persuasion on any religious theme.

Mr. Kidd had literary talents of a high order, as bear witness *The Parchment*, his poem *To the Deity* and other of his writings, *quorum parva pars fui*. He likewise displayed unusual business ability, and was prudent in matters; but since he took up spiritual work his heart was not in buying and selling. Hence forward the merchant's mart for him could boast of few attractions. Since his conversion he has cared little for the pleasures and perishing lustre of the world.

Mr. Kidd was a clever organizer, and possessed great and original ideas. He was broad-minded, and a man of excellent principles. There is no doubt in my mind that some of his views were in advance even of these (in some regards) progressive times. He was liberal and generous, not only in thought, but in his spiritual ministrations, and with money. He had a keen appreciation of anything witty or humorous, and was, on occasion, something of a humorist himself. He was a man of good taste, discrimination and discernment. He had a shrewd sense of social and religious duties. He was sustained by a strong and fearless faith in God, Christ and the Bible, and by the catholic cordial of hope.

Mr. Kidd sympathized with the Jews and their national aspirations. He believed that the end of the second dispensation and the fullness of the Gentiles are at hand, and that the chosen people are destined to achieve their ancient greatness and glory. He was a penible student of Jewish religion, antiquities, history, customs, rites and ceremonies. When in Toronto, he was had in high estimation by many of our Hebrew citizens, and by many of them will be kindly remembered.

Mr. Kidd was patient and long-suffering with losels, dolts, bores, nuisances, huff caps, plug-uglies, westrels, bums and bad street boys—more so than the majority of people would be or are. By many he was mis-

understood. He suffered much abuse and persecution, even from certain professing Christians and some of those who preached on the streets, as well as from accredited sons and daughters of Belial. Arrant Tar-tuffes, Holy Willies, Pecksniffs and Sneakesbys were among his chiefest and deadliest foes. Even some of the clergy were inimical to him, and worked against him. He was constantly assailed by slander's venom-ed darts. He was of a forgiving nature, and did not bear malice against those who had done him fell despite. I do not know of any man who forgave his enemies better than he did, or with a more Christlike spirit.

The evangelist was a friend of the poor, unfortunate and distressed. He never kicked a man when he was down. If a person was in a hole, he would rather help him or her out than push him or her farther down, as many undoubtedly do. He did a good deal for kinsmen, kinswomen, friends, acquaintances and even strangers, generally reaping on all hands base ingratitude, than which, as the supreme dramatic poet has well said, the wintry wind is not more unkind.

If Mr. Kidd had not had robust health of mind and body, the vilification and illtreatment he endured might have broken his heart; but the help of God and a lusty constitution, well taken care of, enabled him to live through it all. He did not use liquor, drugs or tobacco, and he led a good life in other respects. He

has certainly done considerable good in the world and benefited humanity. He did not believe in war. He knew

“That war’s red cup is Satan’s chosen drink.”

The evangelist was a redoubted enemy of religious sectarianism, which he believed divided the body of Christ. Another sound plank in his platform was kindness to animals, which he exemplified in his own life and recommended to others.

Mr. Kidd was also dead against militarism, imperialism, ultramontanism, priestcraft, prelacy, obscurantism, clericalism, formalism, laodiceanism, vivisection, pharisaism, capital punishment, corrupt polity, compulsory education and vaccination, medical inspection, and divers other ills which affect the bodies social, religious and politic. While he was in principle a citizen of the world, he was not ashamed that he was a native of the sacred and imperishable land of Canada; but he was absolutely free from any taint of jingoism or chauvinism. I was with Mr. Kidd, off and on, for over four years, and I can personally vouch for the truth of the above statements. Moreover, I esteem it a privilege and pleasure to have been favored with his friendship.

This pamphlet is presented to the Canadian public as an anathema of oblivion to keep green the memory of my dear friend and confrère, Mr. Robert Kidd, who has gone on his travels through the citted republics

and realms of the spacious world. Peradventure I may never see him again in this Vale of Baca. Be that as it may, I hope to meet him in heaven, where sorrow and suffering are no more.

*[The following text is extremely faint and illegible, appearing to be bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]*

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE FAMOUS AND BRILLIANT CANADIAN EVANGELIST, ROBERT KIDD.

MR. ROBERT KIDD, the well and favorably-known Twentieth Century Evangelist, is the second son of the late Mr. Arthur Kidd, lumber merchant and agriculturist, of Bewdley, Ontario. At that hamlet the subject of this brief memoir first saw the light on May 21st, 1859. He received his education in schools at Bewdley, Port Hope and Cobourg. On arriving at man's estate, he embarked in divers mercantile enterprises, in which he achieved success.

At one time he dealt largely in horses. He also sold many kinds of goods, both on his own account and on commission. He invented a cultivator, which was manufactured by the Star Manufacturing Company, of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Of that implement thousands were sold, the sales of the same netting the inventor some eight thousand dollars. He also engaged in business as a commission merchant and manufacturer's agent.

In his younger days, Mr. Kidd was a mighty hunter like Nimrod, *olim oliorum*. He hunted bears, wolves, deer, wildcats, partridges, grouse, rabbits, plover and

waterfowl through divers forests of Canada. He was likewise a complete angler—a true disciple of good (?) old Izaak Walton. His piscatory prowess was considerable, for he lured in a sportsmanlike manner large numbers of the finny tribe out of Canadian rivers, streams and brooks. But since his conversion, which is duly reported in the ensuing paragraph, he has sedulously refrained from taking the life of any of God's creatures.

On January 1st, 1888, while at Pugwash, Nova Scotia, he was first awakened spiritually, and evinced a desire to lead a Christian life. He now felt contrition for his past sins. While a revival was in progress he went forward to the penitent bench, and kneeling there in a humble and contrite manner, experienced a complete change of heart. During the eighteen years of his career as an evangelist he has preached the Gospel in no less than one hundred and thirty cities, towns and villages of Canada and the United States. The places thus far by him visited are in Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

One these journeys he made, in round numbers, fully seventeen thousand converts. Over one hundred and eighty-five thousand now on earth agree, more or less, with his religious teachings and the doctrines by him set forth. Hence it is manifest that his efforts in

the evangelistic field have been crowned with signal success.

For the last five years the evangelist has been permanently located in Toronto. He conducted a large camp-meeting on Spadina Avenue in the summer of A.D. 1901, and in the autumn of the same year, another endeavor of that ilk on Parliament Street. He also engaged two large halls on Bathurst Street and Spadina Avenue, wherein he held Sunday and week-night services. He has also carried on in the city of Toronto thirty-one cottage meetings, and addressed many open-air gatherings.

Mr. Kidd is sole editor and proprietor of *The Parchment*, a religious journal of merit, published at 73½ Dundas Street, Toronto. Moreover, he is the author of many works, pamphlets, tracts and folders, the names of some of which will now be given: his *magnum opus*, "The Church of God Which in Judea Are in Christ Jesus;" "Cyclopedia of the Roman and British Nations;" "Ordinances of the House of God;" "A Law of Contrasts Regarding the United States;" "Problems of the Age;" "Twenty-five Years' Forecast;" "The Russo-Japanese War in the Light of Prophecy;" "Things Worth More Than Millions to Know and Billions to Possess;" "Three Hundred Evangelists Wanted;" "The Trumpet," and a majestic and sublime poem in blank verse, entitled an "Address to the Deity."

In bodily presence Mr. Kidd is a little below middle stature, broad-shouldered, of robust build, erect carriage, and with a brisk, energetic air. He has black hair, bright eyes, replete with expression, and a medium dark complexion. He enjoys splendid health, and has not found it necessary to take a drop of medicine for upwards of fifteen years. His voice is clear and strong, carrying well to a great distance. His delivery is rapid and fluent; his manner impressive, fervent and convincing. Upon this bright, septentrional star of pulpit oratory and rostral eloquence are now centred the hopes of the evangelistic world. It should be a source of satisfaction to all Canadians that he is a maple-leaf man, born and bred in our great Dominion.

Mr. Kidd is a close and painstaking student of Holy Writ. He is wonderfully familiar with the sacred volume from Aleph to Tau. He is beyond question one of the most remarkable biblicists of any age or time, for he holds the entire Scriptures in his powerful mental grasp, quoting many thousand passages therefrom with ease and accuracy. His memory in this line is phenomenal. He can speak without previous preparation from any text in the Bible, whether selected by his hearers or by himself. In exegesis and hermeneutics he is unrivalled. In his zeal for the faith once delivered to the saints, and in his fiery, sermonic utterances he resembles Peter the Hermit.

He has a large vocabulary, and is never at a loss for the right words and phrases to express his ideas properly. He clothes his thoughts in language which is at once terse, crisp and well chosen. He has a fine sense of humor, of the foibles of humanity, and of the ridiculous; but his style of speaking is generally serious and dignified, as well beseems one dealing with grave, ghostly matters. He has kind and encouraging words for all. He is free from pride and haughtiness; in witness whereof it may be mentioned that he has been known to carry his own washing and that of others to and from the laundry.

He is a vigorous, various, versatile mind. Although he is a practical man of affairs, he intends to devote his life to his chosen calling—that of an evangelist. This choice has been made from a desire to serve the Master, to win souls and to mitigate human misery and misfortune. Those who have been so fortunate as to hear him divide the word of truth, can have no doubt as to his ability, earnestness and sincerity.

The evangelist possesses powers of prevision. He is skilled in the dissolving of doubts, and the interpretation of dark sentences. His predictions concerning the Russo-Japanese war, the vicissitudes of aug-ustly estated personages, and the affairs of nations have been remarkably fulfilled.

His vatic prelections on Antichrist, the battle of Armageddon and the instauration of the Jews to

Palestine are of great interest in these latter and perilous times. He also throws much light on the mystical prophecies of St. John the Divine, as contained in that mysterious book, the Apocalypse.

As a clear-minded seer, mystic, humanist and progressive thinker he has won golden opinions and approved applause. He is not only mighty in the Scriptures, but well reported of for good works, and has warred a good warfare for the cross of Christ. Of a truth his merits excel all quirks of blazoning pens.

He is an advocate of altruism; mutual help, co-operation, kindness to animals and peace instead of war. He is a friend to liberal, philanthropic, reformatory and humanitarian efforts. From political parties, religious denominations, sects and secret societies he keeps carefully aloof. He is no truckler to the powers that be; on the contrary, he is a resolute and uncompromising foe to civil and ecclesiastical tyranny.

He believes in the pure Gospel as taught, preached and exemplified by Christ and His apostles, before the Christian churches had developed into the rich, apostate and worldly organizations which they are to-day. To this excellent and glorious emprise of carrying the glad tidings of the Gospel to various parts of the earth he has consecrated his life and labors. In his gigantomachia with Diabolus, in his determination to engage the powers of hell at close quarters, and in his laud-

able endeavors to rescue souls from the Serbonian bog of sin, we wish him God-speed and horse-shoe luck.

In preaching the holy evangel, and in fearlessly assailing manifold evils and hydra-headed wrongs, Mr. Kidd has suffered much persecution. He has been assaulted by spadassins, and has been by many reviled and despitefully entreated. His character has also been vilely aspersed by male and female backbiters. But, thanks to the help of God and the fact that he is the fortunate possessor of a strong mind in a strong body, he has been able to triumph over all tribulations, misfortunes, difficulties, worries and annoyances.

Mr. Kidd has manifested a praiseworthy spirit of charity and forgiveness towards his enemies, and towards those hostile to his spiritual labors. Even against certain persons who have attempted to ruin him, and have even sought his life, he bears no malice. Moreover, he exercises a noble and generous toleration towards those who oppugn his opinions. In the stately and splendid phrase of Shakespeare:

“Christendom shall ever speak his virtue.”

A few remarks concerning his theological tenets will not be inapposite. Imprimis, he believes in a Christocracy—the government of the world upon the shoulders of Christ. He considers that civil polity infringes on the prerogative of the Prince of Peace,

and retards His reign upon earth; but he admits that the aforesaid polity has been rendered necessary by reason of disobedience to the commandments of Almighty God, and by the dire depravity of the human heart. He teaches that Christ is of the same substance as the Father—that is, truly and essentially God. He accepts the doctrine of vicarious atonement, and believes there is no salvation outside of Christ. He believes in the second advent, and in the millenium.

He is withal an advocate of original sin, justification by faith, the immortality of the soul, good and evil spirits, exorcism, heavenly hierarchies, including seraphim, cherubim and angels guardian. Among other beliefs which he entertains are universal judgment, the resurrection of the dead, future rewards and punishments and the life everlasting.

Furthermore, he believes in the rites of baptism and holy communion, as enjoined by Christ; in the blessed Trinity; the plenary inspiration of the Scriptures; effectual calling; the immaculate conception; certain perseverance of the saints; in the efficacy of prayer; in contemplation, meditation and illumination; in sins mortal and venial; and in the unpardonable sin against the Holy Ghost.

As regards spiritual gifts, he is of the opinion that in the spirit mysteries may be spoken; and that even in these degenerate days it is possible, by power of

Paraclete, to work miracles, prophesy, discern spirits, heal diseases, cast out devils and speak in sundry strange tongues.

Mr. Kidd is now on the eve of making a grand tour of twenty-five of the chief cities of the world. This enterprise, which is under the auspices of the Twentieth Century Mission, will be commenced, *Deo volente*, in Chicago, on May 13th, 1906, continuing there for forty days. He will then go to the city of New York, thence sail for England, remaining sixty days in London, and also, for evangelistic purposes, visiting Liverpool.

He expects to be absent from Toronto thirteen months, during which time he intends to visit the following cities, besides those already mentioned:—Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dublin, Cardiff, Paris, Berlin, Amsterdam, Vienna, Rome, Christiana, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Melbourne, Peking, Calcutta, Cairo and Cape Town. After his return from this grand tour he purposes making a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

During the evangelist's sojourn in this our Queen City, he has made many friends and acquaintances, who, for personal reasons, are loth that he should depart from their midst. By his goodness of heart and almsgiving to the poor, he has increased in popularity and estimation. His works having been to usward very good, we therefore heartily hope that fair may fall him in his travels around the globe.

We pray, likewise, that the God Who delivered Israel out of the hand of wicked Pharaoh; Who went before His chosen people in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night; Who rescued David the King from open and secret enemies; Who bestowed upon King Solomon wisdom and riches beyond compare; Who delivered the prophet Daniel from the lions' den, and Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego from the burning fiery furnace, rendered seven times more hot than it was wont to be heated—we pray in very deed that this self-same God will go with the evangelist as a defence and refuge in time of need, and that He will protect him from perils of flood, fire, tempest, tornado and seismic wave; from accidents of all kinds by land and water; from false brethren; from the machinations and malice of all evil-disposed persons whatsoever; and from the paynim hordes in the far East who know not Christ.

Furthermore, we pray that his efforts in promulgating the gracious Gospel in diverse parts of this terrestrial ball may be greatly blessed, and that he may, at the conclusion of his extended tour, return safe and sound to our beloved Canadian land, and to the fair and renowned city of Toronto.

## RECOMMENDATION.

AUDITORIUM CHURCH CHAMBERS,  
73½ Dundas St., opp. Humbert St.,  
Toronto, February 1st, 1906.

*To Whom it may Concern:*

This certifies that I have known Mr. Judson Davidson for over four years. He has done literary and clerical work for me at divers times. I have found him to be honest, trustworthy, painstaking and conscientious. He possesses good literary ability, is a fine scholar, and reliable in all respects. To all and singular requiring his services I can heartily recommend him. Mr. Davidson gave two literary lectures and one entertainment in my hall, all of which passed off successfully.

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) ROBERT KIDD,

20th Century Evangelist.

