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RECORD OF EVENTS
IN
PRIMITIVE METHODISM
BY
T. RUSSELL.

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RECORD OF EVENTS

IN

PRIMITIVE METHODISM.

BY THOMAS RUSSELL,

PRIMITIVE METHODIST MINISTER.

LONDON :

PUBLISHED BY WILLIAM LISTER, SUTTON-STREET,

COMMERCIAL-ROAD, EAST ;

LEEDS : JOHN PARROTT, BRIGGATE.

MAY BE HAD OF ANY PRIMITIVE METHODIST MINISTER

M DCCC LXIX.

INTRODUCTION



FOR many years I felt it a great pleasure when I went home to Middlewich, in Cheshire, to visit my mother, to spare a day to walk fifteen miles further to Bemersley, in Staffordshire, to see and converse with our fathers in the gospel, as I always found this to be beneficial to me.

The last time I went during Mr. Hugh Bourne's life, he was very ill, suffering severely from inflammation in his foot; he asked me to examine it, which I did, and I was sorely grieved to see him in such anguish, but all was done that could be done for his comfort by his brother and the family.

After staying several hours, we engaged in prayer, and a very solemn time it was; we then sat down in silence for some minutes. It was our last interview. My venerable father in the gospel lifted his drooping head as well as he could, and looking affectionately on me, said, "Brother Russell, mind, I wish you to commit to the press a history of your life, that the next generation may have something to look at when you are gone." And again, as if he wished to make the impression deeper, he looked at me intently, and said,

“Mind, I REQUEST that you will print the whole of your labours, and see to it yourself.” We felt much at parting. Mr. Bourne could no longer take his usual little walk (accompanying me a short distance) as he had been accustomed to do on occasion of the visits of any of our preachers; but this act of kindness his brother supplied.

And now, though sixteen years have passed away, Mr. Bourne’s injunction is still fresh in my memory, and I venture to write down as much as seems to me of utility. And I trust this will reach the eye of some pious, enterprising, vigorous youth, who may be made a blessing by his labours, and may more efficiently carry out the great work, and do more good than ever I have seen. As time advances, and facilities are greater now than they were in my early days, there is a probability of this being the case.

Dr. Clarke said, “the reading the life of David Brainerd made me a missionary;” and, I may remark, the reading of our Magazines and Lorenzo Dow’s Journals had the like effect on me. I trust that these pages may have a similar influence, then all the cost and labour will be amply repaid.

R E C O R D
OF
E V E N T S I N P R I M I T I V E M E T H O D I S M



P A R T I.

I WAS born in the Barony of Kinderton, near Middlewich, in Cheshire, Dec. 21st, 1806. Of my ancestors I have learned but little. I never knew anything bad of any of them ; and in this I have found some degree of comfort. I ever esteemed them very much, and I felt solemn when my father was carried to the grave ; I was then about four years old. The same solemnity came over me several years after when I attended my father's grandfather's funeral. The drinking customs of those days were ruinous. My mother had some knowledge of religion in her early days ; so had her mother ; but there had been a drawing back, and there was little done in these matters.

However, about 1817, the Primitive Methodist Connexion by mission labours made a great move in religion, and was the means of stirring up other churches to greater diligence ; and these churches having places of worship and societies formed, got a good increase from the camp-meetings and street-

preachings of the Primitive Methodists. About that time my mother, having been married again, sought and found religion ; and she became anxious for the salvation of her family. When about twelve years of age, I accompanied my mother to the first Primitive Methodist prayer-meeting in Middlewich. The Rev. Thomas Jackson had preached in the open air amidst persecution ; but this opposition did not deter him from continuing his labours ; and the cause in that town has held on ever since. My mother's house in time became a free home for the preachers, and there the meetings were frequently held. After a time, a beautiful chapel, thirty feet square, was built, and a Mr. Naylor several years sent a sovereign a year to the chapel anniversary. Having omitted this one year he learnt that the friends had some difficulty in making up their interest. Hence he sent for the minister and steward to make inquiry. Bros. Graham and Barnett went, and gave him satisfaction ; and this kind gentleman cancelled the whole debt, and made the house of the Lord free.

My first impressions of good began from reading the old Small Hymn Book. I came into possession of this excellent production by means of my brother Elijah, who was an apprentice at Sandbach, in Cheshire, when Mr. Jackson missioned that town. Mr Jackson sold the books, and my brother obtained one, and he thought this would be serviceable to me, so he kindly gave it me. These hymns I read with great delight, and often very eagerly, and I was soon designated a Methodist ;

I also sung the hymns with pleasure. Two of my youthful companions having been converted, caused my attention to be more closely drawn to these things: their names were James Dale and Joseph Lea, and towards them a strong affection has continued in my heart above forty years. I had a long struggle for salvation; and being out of the reach of christian friends, years passed away before I got fully settled. Often did I wish to become acquainted with the author of "The Book of Hymns and Spiritual Songs, to be used in Camp-meetings and Revivals." At length, for the first time, I heard Mr. Bourne preach at Congleton, on the nature and necessity of the new birth, and was very much benefited. The first clear sense I had of pardon was at a class-meeting, when, on stating that during the week while praying alone I felt blessed and comforted, the leader said, "Thank God, brother Russell, for so clear an account of your conversion to God." This cheered me, and at once Rom. v. 1, rushed into my mind,—“Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Hence I took courage, and felt delighted in the work of the Lord.

Soon after obtaining salvation I felt a strong desire for the good of others, and our friends urged me to strive to be useful; and when eighteen years old, I made my first attempt at preaching, and though I had but a heavy time, yet I had hope, and endeavoured to go forward. Going to reside near Congleton, in 1826, the friends there kindly encouraged me, and I

was glad to help all I could ; and I often walked thirty or forty miles on a Sabbath day to take my appointment in some house, and preach the word of life. In Congleton chapel I preached my trial sermon, and was at once put on the plan ; and in many instances I with others saw precious souls saved : these things were cheering.

I had long had a desire to be more fully acquainted with our fathers in the Lord ; so at Christmas, 1827, I went to live at Bemersley. Here I had rest, and greatly delighted in the conversation and prayers of those blessed men of God, who had accomplished so much in the world in establishing the camp-meeting cause. We often journeyed together, and I was much edified and strengthened in the things of God by their advice. Here, as a local preacher, I missioned Brown-edge, and formed a society of above a dozen members. Quarter-day coming on, Mr. James Bourne asked me how many I was going to count. I said, " I suppose, sir, all of them." He replied, " Count one-third, then you will have a good reserve." This proved to me a life lesson. We also saw a good work start at Bradley Green, Wickerstone Rocks, and other places.

Things steadily moved on. I had above twelve months of usefulness, and all my brethren more or less enjoyed the revival spirit.

It had some time been on our minds for Tunstall Circuit to send missionaries to America, and this was ultimately determined on. And now, as one had to be taken out to travel at Tunstall in place of the removing

missionaries, the quarter-day resolved to give me a call. Mr. James Bourne was delegated to name it to me, and, though with fear, I consented. And on May 26, 1829, after Conference, I set off on my first day's journey as a travelling preacher. Brandside, near Buxton, in Derbyshire, was my first appointment; I had eighteen miles of a walk after dinner. I felt solemn on the road, as I had now fully engaged in the itinerant work, and my mind was much drawn out in prayer as I walked along, and I felt somewhat comforted. I felt a pleasure in meeting the friends. There was no local preacher within eleven miles of this place, but they had nobly kept up their Sabbath school, and paid the rent of the place; and though they often had to hold prayer-meetings instead of preaching services, yet all kept well together, which was a great credit to these poor people. I had often preached to them, and felt benefit. The next day I had time to visit a few families, and had liberty of soul amongst them. Afterwards, I walked eleven miles to Macclesfield, and preached in the open air. On Wednesday, I went eight miles to Congleton. Here I was amongst my old friends, and they prayed much for me. Then I went to Sandbach, where I had comfort at brother Dean's; and after preaching, I went five miles to Middlewich, to see my mother. On Friday, I went to Wornish Nook, and many old friends met me. The Lord was mightily present.

During the week end and following days, I regularly took all the work that I could attend to; and on

Saturday, went twelve miles to Checkley, where a great revival had gone on. This place supplied a part of Wrinehill congregation. At these places brother Wm. Paddison had been made a great blessing; and from hence the work had run like a mighty river. During the service the power of God brought me to the floor, so that there was no preaching that night. The leader, a very tall strong man, fell like a log of wood by my side, and there was a great shout in the camp. I lay about two hours under the power of God, and felt much more fitted for the work afterwards. Early next morning, we started for Englesea Brook Camp-meeting, and processioned through Wrinehill and neighbourhood to Betley, where Mr. Hugh Bourne met us, and directly came to me and said, "What! the Lord came and preached last night?" I certainly felt very solemn. On reaching Englesea Brook, we commenced the camp-meeting, and had a very glorious time. I knew my venerable father in the gospel prayed for me. At noon, I left for Hanley, and preached there twice, and not in vain. With all the diligence I could, I got things ready for quarter-day. A charge was here brought against another preacher, who had left the station, for the neglect of an appointment at Pitt's Hill. Mr. H. Bourne said, "As brother Russell is superintendent, he should have seen to it;" and moved that it should be answered for as such. This was a lesson; yet I made my defence that as I was renewing tickets at Checkley, thirteen miles away, and had to see to matters on that side, I could not be

in the Potteries at the same time. All was amicably settled, and we had a powerful meeting. During the next week, brother John Wedgwood, my colleague, assisted me in making the plan, and we got it to the press at Bemersley. I saw it through the press ; and on Tuesday morning, June 29th, about five o'clock, I left Bemersley for Brinkworth. Mr. James Bourne accompanied me a little on the road, and then bade me farewell. Fearing my want of success, for I was low in spirits, I left my box to come after me. I took with me only part of my clothes and a few books, so as to last me awhile, but it was twelve months before I had courage to send for my other luggage.

On reaching Darlaston (forty-three miles) I called on Mr. David Bowen, who, on inquiring where I came from, was pleased when he heard that I was from Bemersley. He showed me kindness. Wednesday, 30th.—Walked to Tipton, where I preached in the chapel. Thursday, July 1st.—Walked to Worcester, and met brother and sister Davies on their way to their station ; and the day following to Stroudwater, where brother Towler showed me friendship. The day after, he accompanied me and brother Edwards to Nailsworth, where we parted, and I reached Brinkworth, and went on to Mr. Ride's at Wootton Bassett. All seemed very solemn. They inquired from whence I came, and of my origin : this was soon told, as also my hopes, for they were few.

Sunday, July 4th.—A wagon load of us went ten miles to Wanbro' Camp-meeting, and here I preached

from "Remember Lot's wife." I felt a weighty sense of responsibility as I looked over the many hundreds who were present. At night, preached at Stratton ; and from hence followed my appointments, yet with sorrow and pain, not knowing at times whether to return home or not.

At Cricklade I had a violent persecution. A madman in appearance rode a racehorse furiously again and again through the congregation for a considerable time. Nearly all over this circuit there had been generally a violent opposition, and especially in this place. But yet a great work had gone forward, and numbers had been saved. The names of many of our ministers who had laboured there were as ointment poured forth,—they were much esteemed. Methodism, before our friends came here, was scarcely known. John Cennick had seen a great revival in these parts nearly a hundred years before. But it had long been forgotten. However, under the labours of our friends much good had been done, and in several places the congregations were large, and the societies were lively. But there was one place where there was neither congregation nor class of any particular account, but a chapel with nearly £100 debt on it, and it was a cause of much trouble. Being planned there one Sabbath day, I took the open air between the hours of service, which was a cause of good. I also visited from house to house all the families ; and so, instead of only having two or three to preach to, I got about fifty of a congregation, and saw a good move. A trustee's wife

who was very difficult to deal with, said when she saw me, "There is no use in your going to clack, for the people won't come to hear you ;" but after hearing of my success, she said, "Ah! you frighten them to come, but I'll not go."

The ministers of this circuit had been labouring in Berkshire with the hope of enlarging its borders. Messrs. Ride, Petty, Jukes, and Moore, with Miss Clarke, had severally been engaged in this work from April to September, 1829, yet no society had been formed, and there was but little encouragement. My mind was at times very low, but the friends were sympathising, and gave me my choice either to go to Stroudwater, to remain in the circuit, or to go into Berkshire. Thinking that there was nothing on the mission to lose, even if I failed, I made choice of Berkshire ; and at September quarter-day I went there with Mr. Jukes. Certainly all was very gloomy, and I was very sorrowful.

PART II.

MY first appointment in Berkshire was at Lambourne, where I preached in the open air, and not in vain, for a man desired me to go and pray with his mother, who was far advanced in life. I had a solemn time ; soon a number came in, and I sung—

" Come, all ye weary travellers,
And let us join and sing

The everlasting praises
Of Jesus Christ our King."

While singing this hymn a man wept much, and fell down under conviction ; and this was followed up by several more getting a deep concern, and they began to cry for mercy. Some found peace ; and here I formed a class, which was our first society in that county. This was a matter of great encouragement, and these tidings were cheering to our friends in Wiltshire, who said, " You bring us good news from a far country." We also during the quarter saw several brought to the truth in each of the following places,—Ashbury, Wanbro', Eastbury, and East Garsdon. At Bishopston Mr. Jukes was much esteemed ; and I thought, by Mr. Smith's help they would be able to raise a good class. The time was appointed, and a society of eight members was formed. This was a matter of thankfulness. But all through the quarter we knew the severity of cold from open-air preaching, and had trials of a severe kind.

A degree of fever came on me ; and having slept at Wanbro' one Saturday night, on rising on the Sabbath morning, such a stiffness was all over me that I could scarcely stand ; but I ventured to start through the swampy meadows, where at nearly every footstep I sunk ankle deep. From my heels to my brains it seemed that every inch of my whole frame was affected. But I walked four miles to Bourton-on-the-Hill, and preached on the cross in the open air. Thence I walked eight miles to Baydon, but on the road I

suffered much ; and having to walk over the downs, as I was rising a very sharp hill, I could not keep my feet, there being a sharp frost. However I crawled up as best I could. On reaching the village, I began to sing a hymn under a thorn hedge ; and about one hundred listened ; one or two seemed affected. I then hastened down to Aldbourn, and was glad to get a cup of tea at Mr. Farmer's, and at six o'clock commenced my service in the barn ; and though the keen winds cut through the crevices of the building, yet I had strength to go through the work. Here a labouring man wept much, and said to me, "O sir, will you please get me one of your prayer-books ? I will give you any amount of money that I have to get one of your prayer-books." As this fine tall man stood before me in his clean white frock, weeping bitterly, I felt my heart much drawn to him, and I pointed him to Jesus. He sought and found mercy, and gave me his name to be a member. Here, too, we formed a class, and good was done.

Our homes were scarce, and we often knew what hunger was ; but we had a few friends who were kind. Yet being fearful of being a burden, we invariably left each place early, and were often glad to get nuts or berries from the hedges to eat. Some degree of scandal of character was cast upon us, and Mr. Jukes was almost determined to prosecute a man of property for reproach ; but I advised him to let it alone. He then said, "Well, brother Russell, I shall soon have done with this severity, and at Christmas shall go to Salis-

bury ; then I can more easily prosecute my studies, and get prepared for better stations." This seemed almost as a prophecy, for Mr. Jukes became a proficient with his poems and pen. He has made hymns for the million, such as "What's the news?" "Heaven's my home," "The cross," etc., etc. These being set to popular tunes, have been sung by sailors and landsmen in every quarter of the globe. Some hymn-book compilers have pillaged my friend's productions, and attached their own names to them. It would only have been honest to have said, "Composed by the Rev. Richard Jukes, of the Primitive Methodist Connexion, by whom, under God, he was rescued from an ungodly course, after having been a chieftain in village sports, and a ringleader amongst his companions; but he found religion." Mr. Jukes says of himself :—

" 'Twas in a cottage near a wood,
 I was convinced of sin :
 And there my race for endless life,
 Through mercy, did begin.

" 'Twas there I heard those cheering words,
 ' Thy sins are all forgiven !'
 And there I joined the little band
 Whose names are wrote in heaven.

" I always shall revere that place,
 That cottage near the wood,
 For there I lost my load of sin,
 And there received my good.

" And when I reach that better land,
 And stand on Zion's hill,

The humble cottage near the wood
Will be remembered still.

“ There in that sinless world on high,
Before Jehovah’s feet,
Many who used to worship there
I hope at last to meet.

“ Amongst the rest, the good old man,
His wife, and children too ;
And may I ask my reader now,—
Shall I there meet with you ?”

Mr. Jukes maintained a good course, and has now been gathered home to endless rest. The Rev. James Pritchard has written a valuable life of my dear friend, called, “The Poet of the Million : the Life of the Rev. Richard Jukes ;” which may be had at the Primitive Methodist Book-room, Sutton Street, Commercial Road, E. ; or at Mr. Hurd’s, 122, Mile-end Road ; or of any of the Primitive Methodist Ministers.

PART III.

WE had raised forty-eight members on trial this quarter, and £5 5s. 11½*d.* One of the men converted was a day labourer, with whom Mr. Jukes was much pleased ; when he told me of him he said, “ He is a householder.” This brother, out of his seven shillings a week, regularly gave his weekly contributions to the society. We had a great struggle at quarter-day as to who should go with me into Berkshire. I contended for Mr. Ride ; the Quarter-day argued his two years would be up, and that he would have to leave. I said, “ Nay, we must keep him, and I will take him

into Berkshire." The contest lasted above two hours, but I carried my point ; and to this day I believe I was right. However, one of the principal lay brethren said, " O Russell, you unwise man to yourself, you are doing all the work, and you should have the honour." However, I held my friend fast; and I now more fully inquired into his life, and from whence he came, and where he had chiefly been. He said :—" I am from Turnditch, in Derbyshire. I was convinced of sin when Mr. Bourne first came there. However, it was some time before I found religion ; but I once obtained some good by hearing Mr. Clowes ; but lost all, and was again miserable. But one day, while ploughing in the field, I found salvation, and shouted for joy. The lad said I was gone mad, and ran home weeping, and told my father.

" In those days preachers were few ; but praying labourers were raised up, amongst whom were Sarah Kirkland, John Harrison, Martha Doncaster, Thomas Jackson, and many others from that locality, and we missioned extensively, and opened Belper. John Benton was the leading missionary, and was very mighty in the Lord ; also John Wedgwood did much good ; and the visits of the Bournes were always beneficial, and we looked to them as the fathers and founders. I made several attempts at preaching, but made little out ; however, I strove to go forward. One day, my wife drove our covered cart to fetch Lorenzo Dow to preach at our place ; and several other women were with her. They had put Lorenzo in a

comfortable seat at the back of the conveyance ; but on the road he said, in his singular fashion, ‘ I want to have some talk with that woman on the fore-board,’ and he made over to the front ; he then said, ‘ Thou hast a husband ?’ She said, ‘ Yes, sir.’ ‘ Thou thinkest thy husband cannot preach ?’ She replied, ‘ He is not sufficiently learned to preach.’ I should remark they all understood ‘ silent waiting.’ Then Lorenzo said, after some quietness, ‘ Well, I have this to tell thee : thou must let thy husband alone, or the Lord will remove thee from him, for he will have to preach.’ This ended the conversation ; and afterwards they had a powerful meeting at Turnditch.”

Mr. and Mrs. Ride had by diligence saved a little money, and they thought that they had better go to America ; so they sold all off, and emigrated to the United States, and had some hopes of succeeding. But Mrs. Ride was taken ill, and sunk into a decline. This sickness prevented Mr. Ride attending the annual camp-meeting in those parts, so he never saw one in America. This affliction was a cause of great distress. However, one day Mrs. Ride said, “ John, I shall die, and I want thee to promise me to take the children and return to England, when I am dead, for there the Lord has a work for thee to do.” Of course the whole was very solemn. Weeks rolled on, and still the decline knew no abatement. Mrs. Ride finished well ; and soon after her death my friend got ready to return. And I think I understood him that when he and his two children landed in Liverpool, he had but little

left. However, he got back to his native place, and joined himself to his brother William in his farming operations.

Mr. Ride was gladly hailed by his old friends, and put again on the plan. The local preachers formed of themselves a mission plan, and opened several new places. Ashbourne, in Derbyshire, was one, and there Mr. Ride went to preach, near fifteen miles off; but he was decoyed by some footman to stand on the steps of a gentleman's doorway. While in this service, the constable came and commanded him to surrender; but some wicked men said, "Nay, constable, he was directed to stand there, and you shall not move him." At this the man of the staff went away, and the gang accompanied Mr. Ride out of the town, and advised him to make the best of his way home: he did so. In a day or two after, two constables with a warrant came to Turnditch, and got to Mr. Wm. Ride's, and asked for his brother, saying they were come to see him, for he was wanted at Ashbourne. Mr. Ride said, "My brother is gone with the team, taking a load of grain;" and he invited the strangers in, and gave them some refreshment. During the day, the under-constable told Mr. Ride not to let his brother come into their presence, as they had a warrant to take him up for preaching at Ashbourne. This was a serious affair; and Mr. William went across the country to meet his brother, and advised him to go off to Turnditch, and consult the friends what was best to do. This was soon settled, and they advised

him to go to Bemersley and consult the Bournes about the whole affair. He set off that night, and walked forty miles to Bemersley, and arrived early the next day. He was received with tenderness, and Mr. Hugh Bourne, after hearing the whole affair, said, "Brother Ride, you had better stay here a little while, and we will make it a matter of earnest prayer." In a fortnight, Mr. Hugh said, "Brother Ride, we have thought you had better go to the Chester mission, and leave the Derbyshire affair for a while." This was the commencement of our friend's entering the itinerancy, which was in 1822; and he travelled at Chester, Burland, Tunstall, Liverpool, Wrockwardine Wood, Blaenavon, Darlaston, Frome, and was now on Brinkworth Circuit. During those seven years he had seen much good done.

I was much affected at the whole history, and I determined to stand by him, and have him with me in Berkshire; and afterwards had the satisfaction of bringing the second Mrs. Ride and the family to that field of labour, to live at Shefford, where they remained seven years, and then removed to another part of Shefford Circuit, (Reading), where they remained other seven years. Thence they removed to London, where I last saw them, having gone above three hundred miles, in 1849, to bid them farewell, on their embarking for Australia, where our dear friend finished his earthly course; and no doubt he has ere now met numbers of dear old friends who had gone before, and "are now inheriting the promises."

Mrs. Ride wrote me after her husband's death, to ask for any events that I remembered of him. I wrote some twenty or thirty particulars, and posted them by the overland mail from Portadown, in Ireland. I very highly esteemed my friends and all their family, and hope, when I shall have finished my course on earth, to meet them all in heaven. It was a solemn time when, at four a.m., we prayed with each other and wept together, as we parted for the last time.

After quarter-day, and after we had made the plan, I returned to my mission toil. Mr. Ride came in January, and I gave him every information of what we had to do; noticing all our friends, and what I judged to be the best course to take where we had no friends. Weeks rolled on, and occasionally we met; I advised for him to get home to Wootton Bassett as often as he could, Mrs. Ride being very poorly, and they had sickness amongst the children. But I generally knew where my colleague was, so all was satisfaction, and we laboured in great harmony.

Jan. 17th, 1830.—After preaching at Eastbury and East Garsdon, and having two powerful meetings, and joining two to society, I hastened five miles to Upper Lambourne, to help brother Ride. The power of God came down, and two souls found salvation. On our road for Church Lambourne, a man fell down under the power of God. On our arrival, we at once began a prayer-meeting, several cried for mercy, and found salvation. One night, while preaching by star-light, I threw up a quantity of blood, which alarmed some of

the bystanders. In this village I had suffered persecution ; but Mary Wentworth getting converted, and she being of a desperate mind, not even the opposers durst attempt to hinder us there ; and in her house we formed a society ; her husband and brother-in-law found religion, and became useful. But the journeying thirty miles to Salisbury over the plain, to get a license, with snow ankle deep on the ground, made it tiresome after my night's sickness.

Sunday, Feb. 7th.—A meeting early at Lambourne, then preached at Eastbury and East Garsdon, and held another meeting at seven, in which good was done ; but I felt bitterly the pressure of the work, and was glad to rise early next morning, and walk ten miles to meet Mr. Ride at Bishopston. The journey was rather tiresome, as the country was covered with snow, and it was in places in a melting, sloppy state. My friend was glad to see me. When in his work I always knew where to find him, for we had regular rounds, and set times for family visits ; so we knew where to meet each other. At nine, we commenced a course of prayer in a cottage, and had great access. About eleven we left, and he accompanied me four miles over the downs to Ashdown Park corner. I said, “ Let us turn in here, and have another round at prayer before we part.” My agony of mind was very great ; and we both pleaded in anguish of spirit, and for hours we laboured in deep distress of soul ; when at length I rose up and said, “ Brother Ride, yonder country is ours, and we will have it.” He replied,

“Hold fast! I like thy confidence of faith.” We parted—he for Ashbury, and I for Lambourne, where the Lord’s power was mightily felt, and I saw one soul find salvation that night.

PART IV.

Tuesday, Feb. 9th.—I set off to Shefford for the first time, where, after asking liberty to preach at the doors of several houses, and being denied, I at length saw a vacant place, and took my stand by an old cottage wall, and sung—

“The gospel news is sounding
 To nations far and near ;
 Come, listen to the echo
 While it is sounding here.
 “ It brings you news of pardon,
 Of joy, and love, and peace,
 And everlasting happiness,
 If you will it embrace.”

Ere I had sung the hymn and prayed, nearly two hundred people had come together, to whom I preached, and had the happiness of afterwards learning several souls had been brought under the power of conviction and turned to the Lord, one of whom became a very active local preacher. Mr. Herman very kindly invited me to his house ; but I had not time, it being nearly dark, and I had two miles to go to my appointment, where I saw good done in the name of the Lord. I pursued my regular work in family visiting and preaching, sometimes in the open air, though the weather was very cold ; meeting our classes after preaching every evening, and oftener ; and having new members added,

which was very pleasing. The week following, I again went to Shefford, and a great company attended; when Mr. Wells met me on the road, and offered me a piece of land, his own property, on which to preach. This was very acceptable, as I was threatened for trespass by standing on waste land, the lord of the manor supposing that that was his private property. And in addition to this kind offer Mr. Wells desired me to make his house my home whenever I came that way. This became a great help to me in my mission toil.

The following week I was again at Shefford, and many came from a distance. William Hawkins, of Weston, obtained a sense of his lost condition, as did many others; and I formed a ring for mourners, several of whom found comfort. Mrs. Wells being amongst the convicted ones, desired her husband to build a house on this (what we might call) consecrated ground, for on that ground many a precious soul had felt the arrow of keen conviction. Very jocularly Mr. Wells replied, "On condition of one thing I will do so." "Well, Richard, what is that?" was her gentle reply. "Well, Hetty, that you give up the snuff-box." She answered, "La! Richard, you know I only take one pinch a day, and that is the last thing at night" "Ah! that is it I want to be put away." The reply was, "For how long?" and he said, "Three months." "It shall be done!" The bargain was now settled, and Mr. Wells built us a house of seven rooms, one of the nicest in the village; and it had one large room in it for meetings. The first service we held in that house

was a camp-meeting lovefeast, when nearly twenty souls were brought to God, some of whom, of Ramsbury friends especially, became very mighty in the Lord, and ultimately carried the good news to America and other distant lands, whither they emigrated to better their condition in life.

Sunday, March 7. After a morning service at Lambourne, I preached at half-past ten at Eastbury, and led a class, and one more joined. At half-past two, preached at East Garsdon, and joined another. We had very powerful times in praying for Shefford, where I preached to hundreds of very attentive hearers, and made a collection for the first time to help the Circuit funds, and I had invitations to Weston, and other new places. I felt a fixed determination for an enlargement of the work. What I said to Brother Ride in the wood,—“Yonder country is ours,” now rang in my ears, and I resolved to go forward, God being my helper.

March Quarter-day came on, and again the contest about my friend being removed; but I contended for him to be re-stationed. And though the contest was severe, I got it carried. We had fifty-two increase for the quarter, and eight guineas income. Also as it was Mr. Ride's turn to go to the District Meeting, I asked the Quarterly Board to allow me to have Miss Smith as a colleague until his return. They consented, and she took the management of the old places. One circumstance reflects great credit on this brave young friend. After preaching to hundreds in a barn at Lambourne, a man offered

her a donation of five shillings, thinking it would pay her expenses. But she bravely refused it, and thus an impression of independence was made on the minds of the people, as many had been affected under the word.

March 30. For the first time I entered Ramsbury, as I knew by preaching at five o'clock in the afternoon I could reach Aldbourn for seven, it being only three miles off; I commenced singing at the top of the street,

“ My days, my weeks, my months, my years,
“ Fly rapid as the whirling spheres
“ Around the steady pole.”

Numbers flocked out, and many manifested a vile determination to oppose. About two hundred soon got sheep bells, old tins, and anything they could use for making a noise. And they were very annoying. Soon they threw stones and other missiles, and shouted with vehemence, so that few could hear what I said. I felt a little alarmed as the stones rattled in the boughs of the great tree where I stood in the middle of the town, but I felt calm as I delivered the word, and thank God the service was beneficial. Under the same tree about fifty years before, Dr. Coke preached, when the town authorities brought out the fire engine, and tore his gown. But the Doctor told them, “ Before long you will want the engine for something else.” And it was so, for a fire broke out and burned a great part of the town down. Some had it in their minds to put me in the mill pond, but I escaped by going into a friend's house after meeting, and through the back garden I got off

to my night's appointment. I thought when my work was done to run away (and I could run in those days); was not cowardly. Their cry was, "Church and King! no Ranters here!" and they rattled their old tin cans.

Sunday, April 4. I preached at Ramsbury again, at seven in the morning, to several hundreds, in the open air. About twenty young men sung wicked songs all the time, and shouted out "Church and King, no Ranters here, no preaching here," &c. Nevertheless the word preached had its desired effect; good was done. I went a third time before any other preacher. Numbers crowded round me as soon as I entered the place, children and young men ringing hand bells, sheep bells, horse bells, and blowing horns, shouting, &c., to a strange pitch. I walked down through the place, amidst hundreds of spectators. Shame would have crept in, but I remembered what Mr. James Bourne once said, "When shame would come, it is generally the spirit of the people would fly upon us." This much encouraged me. I walked towards the lower part of the town, and on the road a Baptist minister's widow, with true sympathy and kindness, and with heroic courage, rushing into the midst of these ruffians, cried shame upon them for their conduct, and took me into her house. She gave me some refreshment, and spoke kindly to me, saying, "You are like Paul and Silas, at Philippi, but the Lord will stand by you." After a few minutes, and praying with this kind friend, I again encountered the mob, and crossing to a heap of stones, I ascended it, and preached as well as I could

collect my thoughts. At the close I told them if they would behave better I would send them a female to preach, and then left them. But about twenty youths followed me nearly a mile out of the town, and on bidding them farewell, I told them I would pray with them. We all kneeled down, and while at prayer most of them wept. There was evidently a good work begun on their youthful minds. This very much encouraged me, and though sorrowful, yet I could rejoice. On seeing Miss Smith I gave her an account of the persecutions, and also of the prospect of good, and left it with her either to go or not as she judged best, as I feared for her safety. But when the time came she went, and the friend who put me through his house to escape the fury of the mob on my first visit, now prepared his barn for the service. The persecutors attended as before in order to create a disturbance, and molest the worshippers, having their pockets filled with stones, eggs, and other missiles. As they walked up the avenue leading to the barn, Miss Smith, dressed with characteristic neatness, in the garb of a female Friend, was singing a hymn with her usual sweetness and pathos. As soon as the ringleader of the mob saw her he was awestruck, and nearly overpowered. Turning to his companions, he said with authority and determination, none of you shall touch that woman. And some of them went away in confusion.

The impressions made at the former meetings were deepened at this service, and other persons were also affected. About twenty became decided to lead a new

life. A society was formed, and Mr. John Alexander opened his carpenter's workshop for our meetings, which I got licensed, by going near thirty miles to Salisbury. In Ramsbury very considerable good was done, for many souls were converted to God, though persecution continued to rage. One night a gang of thieves was passing to a certain sheep fold to commit depredations. But the ringleader stood and listened, conviction struck him, and he became a converted man, as did many others. And one night I joined fourteen to society. We soon had above a hundred members, but the spirit of persecution often ran very high, so that I had to bring several up before Dr. Merrick, and showing him our license we had peace for a time after this magistrate's reproof to the mob.

Sunday, April 11. I preached at seven in the morning, at Lambourne, and tears flowed in abundance. At ten and two preached at Eastbury and East Garsdon, and at five to hundreds at Shefford, where much good was done. We came back to East Garsdon and held a prayer meeting, and while I was praying in order to conclude, the Lord set one soul at liberty who had come twenty miles to seek salvation.

Saturday, April 17. I missioned Crooked Soley. On the road I said to the young man that was with me, "We shall either see a good work start to night, or have a heavy opposition." But happily the evening closed with seven precious souls setting out for heaven. And here afterwards we formed a society. One man went home and forbad the usual desecration of the

sabbath in his family, saying, "We will lead a new life." The next day, he in company with others, met me some miles off to hear the word, for which he was turned out of his house, and was deprived of his employment by his merciless and ungodly superiors! But he notwithstanding held fast his integrity, and persevered in his christian course. Had this poor man continued in his sabbath breaking and wicked ways, he would have been allowed to retain his cottage and employment. But fearing that he would be a help to the missionaries, the church authorities sought his ruin. This was grievous.

PART V.

WE made arrangements to call out Bros. James Hurd and Thomas Adams, to travel, so that we had an opportunity of entering on an extensive line of labour for one preacher's entire work, as one of our brethren was called on to go to America.

All being in readiness, Sunday, April 18, I commenced an entirely new course of labour. After prayer meeting at East Garsdon, about twenty friends accompanied me to Hungerford-new-town, where I preached in the open air, at nine o'clock. At eleven, preached at Kintbury, and under the word several were awakened. At one o'clock came to Hoe Benham, singing as we entered the place,—

“Wandering pilgrims, mourning christians,
 Weak and tempted lambs of Christ;
 Who endure great tribulation,
 And with griefs are much distressed.

Christ hath sent me to invite you,
To a rich and costly feast ;
Let not shame, nor pride prevent you,
Come, the rich provision taste.

CHORUS.

I am bound for the kingdom,
Will you go to glory with me,
To sing Hallelujah !
To God and the Lamb.”

There were now about fifty in my travelling congregation, and most of them seemed to enter joyously into the devotions. The whole village was roused, and we commenced our service in the gravel pit. I thought there were near five hundred people assembled. And as I stood on the bankside preaching with all my energy, I perceived an uncommon emotion run through the assembly. Several cried for mercy, and many wept. It was a great time. At five I preached at Boxford, to about one thousand, for the whole country seemed moved. Several from this service started for heaven, and became useful. Here a pious woman said she saw me in *a dream* preaching many years ago. We then moved on in a great company to Wickham, where over one thousand people listened very attentively to the word of life. And a great time we had. After that I went to Weston, to sleep at Mrs. Newton's. This kind lady's miller and his man had accompanied me nearly all the day, and it would have been woe to any one that should have dared to molest me. But all was peaceable through the day, and I was glad of a night's rest.

Weston was amongst my new mission places, and here I formed a class in Mr. Hawkin's house. And much good was done there. We soon had upwards of twenty members, and though they endured great trial and opposition, yet they bore up, and several became mighty in the work.

Monday, 19th.—I pursued my labour in another direction, and during the week opened Peasemore, Fawley, Farnbro', Lilly, and Chaddleworth. Now and then I had the comfort of meeting with one and another who had received good under the word, and who though poor were yet kind. And as I did not like being a burden to my new or old friends, I kept as close as possible to every fresh place, and when I had no food I went without. A person offered me three middle sized apples. These delicacies served me a whole day for food, and at Lilly I slept in a cart-house.

The last mentioned places were bordering on Woolley Park, and soon the spirit of persecution arose, and especially at Chaddleworth, where shouting, blowing horns, ringing sheep bells, beating tin cans, cursing, swearing, and all manner of opposition prevailed. But I bore up and struggled on as best I could. And even here, I had the pleasure of learning that several obtained a sense of their lost condition. There were scenes of violence; and one spirited young man who had got some good, rushed between me and a persecutor. They soon came to blows, but my friend was the victor. However all settled down, and we parted peaceably.

Sunday, 25th.—At East Garsdon, at prayer meeting at four a.m. At Shefford, at six. In each place good was done by our members getting a deeper impression. I followed on the same route as the Sabbath before, only adding Wickham Common; great numbers attending me all the day, and crowds in every place. Also during the week I followed up my daily toil, and had invitations to new places.

But I saw watchers were set to know who of the villagers attended the meeting, as all who did were to be excluded from parish gifts at Christmas. This was very trying, and I felt pain of heart for the poor people. But I cautiously watched my steps, and was guarded in my proceedings, earnestly looking to the Lord for help, and giving myself to constant prayer.

Friday, May 6th.—According to promise went to Chaddleworth, and on entering the village the constable met me and politely said, "How do you do, Sir?" I replied, "Very well, Sir." He then asked me if I had any of the books that I used, such as hymn books and magazines. So I innocently said, "Yes, Sir." He procured several from me. Then he asked, "Have you a license," and I said, "No, Sir." At this he said, "Then you must go with me to the magistrate." I replied, "I should like to preach first, as the people will soon be coming together." At this he took out his staff, and shook it before my face, and said, "If you don't go with me, I shall compel you." I then replied, "There needs no compulsion, I will go with you."

So we at once set off to Woolley Park. But on the road I found he did not like his job, for he said to me, "I am compelled to take this course, or I should lose my farm, and being overseer and constable, besides holding other offices which are beneficial, I am obliged to do as I am bid, or I shall lose all." I replied, "Do your duty." On the road I read Luke xii. 11, 12; "And when they shall bring you unto the synagogues, and unto magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say: For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in that same hour what ye ought to say."

On our arrival, standing in front of the hall for some time, several young ladies came out, looked at me, laughed, and went away. An elderly lady also came out, stood before me for some time, and then went away, talking in an undertone.

The clergyman came out and asked me, "Do you know Greek and Latin?" I replied, "I know sinners must be converted, or there will be no getting to heaven." He said, "I have read Mr. Wesley's works, and he would not encourage his preachers to go where there was an evangelical clergyman." I replied, "I respect Mr. Wesley's works and his people, but I don't belong to that denomination. I am a Primitive Methodist." He replied, "You are not needed here, as the gospel is preached in this parish." I replied, "Unless sinners get converted, they cannot get to heaven." And I believe in our Lord's command, Mark xvi. 15:

“Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth, and is baptised, shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned.” At this he went away. And soon after the magistrate came and said to the constable, “Whiting, who have you got here?” He replied, “This is the man that goes about preaching.” He said, “What do you mean?” “Why this is the man that goes about preaching.”

It was soon clear to my mind, if I had had no other intimation, that the plan had been pre-arranged for the constable to take me up, and bring me to the magistrate for some jesuitical purpose. But I was not aware of the cunning on their part until now.

And afterwards I understood there had been parish meetings to contrive some means to put a stop to our proceedings.

At one of these meetings a gentleman farmer said, “It is no use attempting to put a stop to these people, unless that Russell, a black devil him, gets driven out of the country. For one morning, at five o'clock, as I was going to my far farm, I spied him going towards one of our cottages, so I thought I would see what he was after; and I went quietly round, but by the time I got there he was on his knees praying as if heaven and earth were coming together. I was glad to get away. Now its him that makes all the Ranters. Let him be put away, then all the others will be frightened, as he makes way for all the rest. He goes first everywhere.”

The magistrate evidently did not wish me to think that he knew anything of my being taken up. But the constable persisted that "this is the man that goes about preaching and praying, that I had to bring up to you."

Then the following interrogations took place :—

Magistrate.—Where is your home, and what do you do ?

Russell.—I am from Bemersley, and am a Primitive Methodist preacher.

Magistrate.—What do you go about preaching for ?

Russell.—I go about preaching that rogues may learn to become honest men, Sabbath-breakers to go to some place of worship, and that swearers may learn to pray.

Magistrate.—Swearers pray ! Why I never heard of any man swearing like you swore the other night at Fawley.

Russell.—Me swear at Fawley.

Magistrate.—Yes, you did.

Russell.—No, Sir, I did not.

Magistrate.—You did.

Russell.—I did not.

Magistrate.—You did.

Russell.—I did not.

Magistrate.—I can prove it.

Russell.—Well, then, prove it.

At this he made a beck with his hand, and up came a man from behind a large shrub.

Magistrate.—I say, keeper, did not you hear this man swear the other night at Fawley ?

Keeper.—Well, Sir, I never heard any talk so much about hell fire and the devil, and damnation as that man did, 'till I felt horrified.

Magistrate.—Turning to me, Don't you call that swearing?

Russell.—I did not swear.

Magistrate.—If that is not swearing, what is?

Russell.—Well, if that is swearing, then our Lord swore, for he said, "He that believeth not shall be damned." And, "How can ye escape the damnation of hell?"

The Magistrate, evidently not liking this, suddenly broke in with, Oh, Pooh, Pooh, none of your preaching stuff here.

Russell.—Then, Sir, don't ask for it, but it is *the truth*. And without being born again, we cannot get to heaven. Without being converted, there is no getting to heaven.

Magistrate.—Being of the church we are right, and yours is a schism.

Russell.—Our Lord said, "Ye must be born again."

Magistrate.—Being baptised and confirmed, and taking the sacrament, we are all right.

Russell.—Without holiness no man can see the Lord. I tell you, Sir, we must have a change of heart, or we can never get to heaven.

Magistrate.—Well, now I shall make you an offer. If you will give me your word of honour that you will cease preaching in several places round here, I will set

you at liberty. For I have had applications from the clergy and gentry to put a stop to this sort of preaching. And if you will give me your word of honour to give up this work, then I will set you at liberty.

Russell.—No, Sir. I am an Englishman, and a minister of the gospel, and shall keep my liberty and go on preaching the gospel. Our Lord said, “Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature,” and this command I shall abide by.

Magistrate.—Then there is a fine of £10 on you.

Russell.—It will not be paid, Sir.

Magistrate.—Then you must take what follows.

At this the constable took me behind him on his horse, upwards of seven miles, across the downs to Wantage, and before ten o'clock at night I was again interrogated as before.

Only now on my promptly refusing his proposition the magistrate called me a fanatic. I replied, Sir, I shall keep my liberty. At this he said, Then I shall commit you to prison as a vagrant. Thus “having no certain dwelling place,” he wrote out my mittimus,—To hard labour, confined to gaol allowance for three calendar months, in default of payment of £10 fine : which I considered thoroughly unjust. By midnight I was put into the hands of the Wantage constable. I got supper, and also breakfast next morning, and prayed with him, and he told me I might take a walk round the town to see the place, and with half an intimation that if I ran away he would not run after me.

But no, I respected my calling, and wished well to my country, and would not do a mean thing. About ten o'clock he had his trap ready, and off we started to Abingdon.

The constable offered me leave to call on any one that I thought well, so having learned that the Rev. James Loutit, Wesleyan, was in that town, I called at his lodgings, and he kindly sympathised with me, and took a copy of my mittimus, and after praying with him I bade him farewell.

At the sight of the prison I began to feel about my mother and home, and many old friends. On being delivered up to the gaol keeper I was put into a solitary place, and had a stone seat. Here I kneeled down to pray. In an hour the doctor came in and ordered me to strip, which I did, and felt a little glad to show him as fine a body as it was his general custom to look on. I was pronounced fit for the prison, so I was taken to the upper part of the prison. And they took my own clothes away from me with my travelling bag, and gave me the gaol clothes to put on, consisting of a check shirt, yellow stockings, jacket, waistcoat, breeches, and cap, all of the same colour, and a pair of clogs. I wished the gaolor to let me have my bible and hymn book, but was refused even these. So I was brought down amongst the felons, and at once put to the wheel. There was a poor fellow in for poaching that recognised me, and he said, "Sir, what has brought you here?" I said, preaching at Chaddle-

worth. At once his features indicated sympathy with me, and he bore a good testimony for me before the other prisoners. Saying, "I have seen Mr. Russell preaching in the frost and snow while the sweat has run down his face. He is a good man."

I talked to him and our fellow-prisoners, and indeed preached to them, and not in vain, for I saw after a week's abode with them, a reformation amongst them. But there came another gang in, and these were of a bitter wicked kind. One a large blustering man, fearfully swearing, I reprov'd him. At this he rose up with violence, and gripp'd his fist in my face, and swore he would split my bloody head against the wall if I said anything to him. At this my acquaintance stood up and gripp'd his hand in his face, and said, "if thou touches him, I will split thy head on these flags," saying, "Mr. Russell does not wish thee nor any of us any harm."

I certainly felt a deep sympathy for these poor creatures. But I saw a prison life was not the way for either poachers, thieves, or robbers to get their hearts changed. At their leisure time their conversation was on their former exploits in wickedness. And there was a development of crime, and badness, such as I had never known or heard before.

The grinding at the mill was severe, and this made the men swear. They said the treadmill was not near so hard work as our handmill was. At this mill ten of us were placed, five on one side, and five on the other,

and we had to throw our whole strength on the wheel for half-an-hour at a time, grinding corn, and then we had half-an-hour in another part of the prison pulling old ropes to pieces with our fingers and thumbs, untwisting the different folds of rope, thus making oakum for shipbuilders.

The mill work was severe, and ere we had been two minutes on the iron handles, the sweat would roll down us; and thus for thirty minutes we were bathed in perspiration. We had to work hard to keep the stones at full speed, and the harder we wrought the easier it was, as being on full swing they ran the more freely. But the strain going through all our bones shook the whole system, so that those who had been used to the scythe, in mowing hay-grass, or any other heavy labour, said it was not more severe than this mill work. Thus we had half an hour's labour in a very hot close room on the wheel, then half an hour's cooling at the oakum work, and so we spent ten hours a day in hard labour.

I had a cell to myself; an iron bedstead with no bend in it, and a very hard straw bed, something like a sack, light covering, but no pillow, so I placed my clogs near each other and put my small clothes over them to rest my head on; and being locked in with a great chain across the gate or door of the cell, and the loose boards for a window, just opposite the gate, I had a full draught through my stone cell during the night. However, I could sing the 22nd Hymn, large book, and did sing it often,—

Nor exile I, nor prison fear,
 Love makes my courage great ;
 I find a Saviour every where,
 His grace in every state.

Nor *prison walls*, nor *straw bed cells*,
 Exclude his quickening beams ?
Here I can sit, and sing, and weep,
 And dwell on heavenly themes.

A Saviour *succours me in toils*,
 And sweetens all my pains ;
 His strength in my defence employs,
 Consoles me and sustains.

I fear no ill, resent no wrong,
 Nor feel a passion move,
 When malice wets her sland'rous tongue,—
 Such patience is in love.

The words in *italics* are my own insertion, as suitable to me in the house of my hard bondage.

And again, often at the midnight hour I sang,—

My soul's full of glory, which inspires my tongue,
 Could I meet with angels, I'd sing them a song ;
 I'd sing of my Jesus, and tell of His charms,
 And beg them to bear me to His loving arms.

But the man who knew me said, “ You must sing slow,” or you will be put in the dungeon for disturbance, as noise is not allowed ; so I patiently sung in my heart, and a little over the top of my voice.

On my entrance into the prison they asked me if I would go to hear the minister of the establishment.

I replied, "Yes," as I knew none of our ministers were within twenty miles of me, and I did not like to give trouble; however the Rev. William Paddison came all that distance, intending to see me, but was not allowed, but had to go back without. But Mr. Loutit got access, as he lived in the borough; and so did the Rev. Mr. Wilkins, Congregationalist. On one of these occasions I got a cup of tea, and a thin slice of bread and butter. This was refreshing, and I felt thankful for it.

One day the under turnkey, a kind young man, said to me, for he knew what had brought me there, "If I was you I would join some respectable body of christians, as your demeanour would procure you preferment, and not be connected with so mean a body as the Ranters." "Sir," I said, "What do you mean by the Ranters?" He said, "Those who shout and bawl, and make a confusion of noise in worship." I said, "Nay, Sir, you Church of England people are the persons who make a confused noise. When ye are in your Church service, ten or twelve of you clamour out and say, "We have erred and strayed like lost sheep, have mercy on us," &c. Then when you come down into the ward, cursing and swearing comes on. Now, Sir, that is ranting. The Primitive Methodists are a very honourable people and sing in harmony, pray in faith, and preach with sense, and are very moral and upright in their conduct. They are good citizens, and I never knew one put in prison for any

misdemeanour." At this he went away rather confused.

There was sometimes a little humour at the dinner time on those days we had dinner—which consisted of a platter of potatoes, about half-a-dozen for each man. On the dish being emptied out, the whole was divided about as equally as possible, and all in the ward passed judgment whether all the lots were equal. All being amicably settled, one of the elder prisoners stood in a corner so as not to see the lots, and had to answer another elder, who pointing out the lots one by one said, "Whose is this?" The man who was in the corner answered by name for any one he thought well. And each one knew his name, or what stood for his name. My title was "The Parson," or "Our Clergyman," and without a murmur the lot was taken up in our hands, and when all was settled I asked a blessing. The dinner was soon over, and not even a bit of potatoe peel was destroyed. At breakfast we had a little skilly and bread, and the same in the evening. There was plenty of salt, and plenty of water, but all the rest was scant enough. And hunger pinched severely, so that I often wondered why a human being could not eat the ground to pacify the cravings of hunger. This new mode of life brought on an illness. One man was taken sick and kept his cell for two days. In my mealtimes I had to wait on him, and I got a few instructions from him as to prison life. I talked to him, and prayed with him, so my services were beneficial to him in more than one way. However, sickness

came on me, and the doctor was sent for to see me. And as I could not stand to the wheel, I missed work several turns. But when he came, he said, "Here he came to be punished, and here he must be punished." And I was ordered to the wheel again. Thus I found that scripture was true, "The tender mercies of the wicked are cruel."

I suffered much through weakness for several days, and I felt much for my fellow prisoners in their sufferings. A visit of the magistrates one day caused a little excitement. One of them, of great size, amused himself by saying, the preacher should have a few faggots under him. This man's name I forbear mentioning, but a Dr. Merrick said, "I prize a man who, for conscience' sake, sticks to his principles," and looked kindly at me.

When pinching want was felt severely, the prisoners would quaintly say to each other, "Would you do the like again?" and they would answer, "No, only let me get out of this place, and I will not do the like again." Sometimes they would say to me, "Would you do the like again?" I invariably answered "Yes, as soon as I have an opportunity." They said, "Then you are not ashamed of what you have done?" I replied, "Oh, no, mine is a good work."

At length June 5th arrived, and by nine a.m., Bros. Ride and Moore, with Messrs. Pinegar, Habgood, White, and Morse, were in the town waiting for my release. After a few turns on the wheel, and at making

oakum, I was separated from my companions in tribulation. I gave them good advice, and prayed with them. They said, "We are sorry that you are leaving us, but glad for your sake ; for had you stayed it must have put an end to your life." I felt solemn. We wept at parting. I bade them farewell. My friends with a carriage were at the prison gates, and I was handed in. Br. Ride with his sweet sonorous voice gave out a hymn, and we sung up to the market-place, where Br. Moore preached on the imprisonment of Paul and Silas, at Philippi. Br. Ride gave an account of the rise and progress of our Connexion, and I preached from Acts, xxviii. 15., "Whom when Paul saw he thanked God, and took courage." I felt thankful for this meeting, and after refreshment we drove to Marston Manor House, where Mr. Pinegar told me to stop as long as I liked. I here rested a little, and then made off to other scenes of our labour, where friends were glad to see me.

PART VI.

June Quarter-day came on. And an invitation had been sent for me to go to London to see John Wilkes, Esq., a very noted solicitor, who was Secretary for the Society for the Protection of Religious Liberty. He also sent £2 towards my expenses up. So it was deemed proper for me to go, and I went. And my reception was gracious indeed, for he gave me a another pound.

On examination, Mr. Wilkes said, "Mr. Russell, you are very much like Mr. Hugh Bourne, your founder, in your cautious answers, for he would say but little. He was cautious, but a great lawyer."

Then Mr. Wilkes kindly offered me to enter an action against the magistrate for false imprisonment. But I thought it better not. Then he said, "What would you wish?" And I said, "Only to be allowed to go unmolested by that magistrate. We will not seek his protection against persecution, but we don't want his hindrance."

The reply of Mr. Wilkes was, "Mr. Russell, your spirit is that of a christian, go on, Sir, about your work and we will protect you." He then gave £2 more towards my expenses, in all £5. This was really kind. I felt thankful to the Lord, and left my friend.

During my stay in London, Mr. and Mrs. Friskin, with Mrs. Gardner, of Long Acre, and others, showed me kindness, and their minister gave me lodgings at his house, and I took appointments every night. On the Sabbath I preached four times, viz., in the morning at nine, on the spot where John Rogers* was burned.

* I little thought that in the evening of life I should marry a descendant of this brave man of God, one of the seventh generation. He was the first martyr under the bloody Queen Mary. She was led by the Papal party, and Rogers, a Protestant clergyman, was married and had a family of ten or eleven children, one an infant not long born. This man of God very much wanted to speak to his wife, to give her some advice. But his bloodthirsty persecutors denied him this privilege, and hurried him to Smithfield, where he was burned at the stake. 'His was cruel work.

At half-past ten I preached to the sailors at Shadwell, we had a weeping time. At half-past two preached at Cooper's Gardens to a crowded congregation, and three precious souls were converted. Glory be to God! I afterwards led class, and joined several fresh members. We had a great time. At six, in Goswell-street chapel, and a blessed time. My soul was free in the work. This is a source of thankfulness.

I one day accompanied our friends to Woolwich to a tea meeting. This was the first public tea I ever was at. They told me they had to take this course to raise the rents of their places of worship. From tea to the time of the public meeting I preached in the open air, under the Barracks wall, and had a solemn time. Several soldiers paid good attention. I felt much for them. After tea meeting we had two souls saved. This was good indeed. Glory be to God!

On my leaving London, Br. James Garner (1st.) accompanied me to the coach. I offered him pay for

John Rogers was much engaged in translating the Matthew Bible, and seems to have completed Tyndale's work. They had been connected some months at Antwerp, but when Tyndale was dead the work lived, and John Rogers finally completed the translation. And thus the Bible is given to the world, and plough boys, sailor boys, factory boys, collier boys, and indeed all classes now have the privilege of reading God's most glorious truth. Of the three worthies, Coverdale, Tyndale, and Rogers, the first had fled to a foreign country. The second had died a martyr. And now Rogers was the only one left, and being considered the ringleader of the Protestants, the Papists seized him, passed him through several mock trials, then burned him, February, 4, 1555. Shall not God be avenged?

his kindness in giving me lodgings, but he refused anything, but thanked me for my help. But after mounting the box I threw him down half a sovereign, and I saw he picked it up. So we bade each other farewell.

On my return into Wiltshire, our friends wanted me to enter an action against the magistrate, or let Mr. Wilkes do it. But I still thought if even I could beat him in the Court (which I did not fear doing), yet it was the best way to leave the affair with the Lord, and calmly pursue my ministerial work. Accordingly I soon returned to my children in the gospel, on my new field of labour, and was glad to find that though they had been much tried, yet from the labours of Mr. Moore and Elizabeth Smith, the ground had been kept good, and the work had gone on. The new classes I had formed held on, and scores of souls were still under good impressions. At Chaddleworth, where I was taken up, I had the comfort of forming a society, which has done well. Praise the Lord for it.

The Friday I went to prison, John Coxhead went four miles to hold a prayer meeting at Weston, where he began to preach. This young man had been brought to the Lord under my labours four months before. There was great praying at Weston that night, and several found peace. Amongst these was Mr. William Hawkins. And now on my return I found he had started for heaven, at a meeting I held on my first going to Shefford, on the ground where our house was built. This news I had from him many years after.

At which time he told me, "The master I then was carter for turned me off and out of house and home for taking the preachers in. But God has blessed me ever since, and I am now a trustee for nearly every chapel on this circuit. But poor Mrs. Hawkins felt keenly when the bailiff put all their furniture out in the road, and she and her little children stood weeping under the drenching rain." That certainly was cruel work.

In process of time another farmer offered William the situation of head carter. But this brave man said, "Sir, I am converted to God, and a local preacher on the plan, and shall go to preach." "I don't care for that," said the farmer, "if you will come you shall." He went and served that gentleman some years.

One Monday morning the master said, "Well, William, were you holding forth yesterday?" "Yes, Sir," was the reply. "Where?" inquired the master. "Up in Hampshire, for we have a great work in that county." Said he, "Are not you very tired?" "Not much, Sir." He then said, "Now, William, I advise you when you take these long journeys, take the Mistress' pony, as she does not often use it, and scarcely ever of a Sunday." Hence this brother, in his white smock frock, was better off than most of his brethren. Though he had occasionally no objection to ride and tie with his fellow labourers. He maintained a good course, and served God for upwards of thirty years, and finished well.

Coming back to my labours, I found the magistrate

was not content with his violence towards me, but strove to injure others. One Sabbath morning, when I was in prison, Miss Smith, with other friends, went to Chaddleworth to have service. Scores of friends met them. And at the meeting the service was well attended by the villagers, and many from neighbouring villages wept under the word, and good was done. But a number of musicians came with their instruments, and began to play. There were some young men, however, who were determined Miss Smith should have a hearing. And they threatened to kick the end of the drum in, and break the other instruments, if they persisted. So the musicians went into a house and soon a lad was seen running with a note in his hand to the church, as by this time the service was about to begin. The magistrate said to a neighbouring squire, "Come, let us have a fray with the Ranters, and put them down, for they are determined to go on."

So they made their way to the street meeting. And on their arrival the minister was closing her last prayer, and as she was kneeling in the conveyance the magistrate took hold of the horse's bridle and inquired whose it was. He also took hold of a young man and gave him into custody, and then several others in like manner were given up to the constable. And there was a creating of constables at the same time, as far as the magistrate's word seemed to go. But there was a vigorous strong man, who had come five miles to the meeting, who said to himself, "if thou touches me, I'll

fit thee out," and, indeed, rather stood to be assaulted. The magistrate took hold of him, but he being accustomed to wrestling, at once gently put his hand to the magistrate's breast, and with his foot just tripped up his heels, and turned him on his back in the nettle ditch. The brother squire rushed forward to his help, when he was served the same. Then two or three gentlemen farmers, who were as troublesome as their superiors. And these, too, were made companions of the squires amongst the nettles in the ditch. However all was quiet in the congregation, and the service closed. The magistrate got first out of his company, and said, "I hope there is no harm done." "No," said the vigorous young man, "Only behave yourselves next time you come. We are peaceable people, but wont be interrupted."

The two village squires and their farmer friends went to church, and the congregation of worshippers went to their own homes.

All we heard of the affair further was, that the magistrate went to a neighbouring justice for advice, and to get out summonses for the people. But this one said, "From your statement, you began the fray ; and now as you have burnt your fingers in Russell's case, don't burn your hands in this." So the matter dropped, for our people were not inclined to punish them for interruption.

PART VII.

During the time of my severe imprisonment, Mr. Goddard showed kindness, and told his friend Mr. Edward Kirby, of Bradfield, of what was doing, which excited in Mr. Kirby's mind a desire to see and hear for himself. And on taking my appointment at Hermitage, he met me and attended the service in the grove. After the meeting he made himself known to me, and gave me a pressing invitation to visit his place, where he had a chapel. I went, and was kindly received by his family, and I preached in several other places; amongst the rest at Beenham Green, where I preached on the road, and a good work ultimately broke out. At Bucklesbury Common the word ran with power, and Mr. David Berry, a boy in that neighbourhood, turned to the Lord, and he is now a very active local preacher in London. At Burnt-hill, in a barn, the word ran. But Aldermaston became a scene of violent persecution in after years; and, indeed, such was the abuse that some of our friends met with there, that the painful effects lasted for a long time. Yet the seed soon took root in those parts, and grew up to a good harvest. To God be all the glory. Amen.

Mr. and Mrs. Dance, of Hampstead Norris, had invited us there; and for doing so they were ordered to leave their house; but the Lord inclined Mr. Louseley to promise to build them premises at a reasonable rent. This was thankfully accepted, and the

family and infant cause continued to live in the village. This kind benefactor to our friends also ordered our magazines, and took them in for years. But all these friends are long since gathered home, while the cause of the Lord still flourishes. It was in this village the Rev. David Kent, when a youth, joined us, and soon became a useful member, then exhorter, and in time a travelling preacher, and he was a successful missionary. He finished life well.

At this early stage of our labours my young friend, the Rev. James Hurd, was one evening having an open-air service on Wickham Common, and I think I shall never forget with what vigour he gave out the hymn—

“ You all are invited with Christ to embark
On board his rich ship, the ancient Noah’s ark,
Which was launched at Eden, has long been at sea,
And comes into harbour for you and for me.”

There was a glory in that service ; good^{ly} was done.

I had long wished to open Hungerford ; so, one Sabbath night, after a long day’s labour, I found my way there, and stood on the market steps. Hundreds surrounded me ; but by the time I had read my text, the chief bailiff came and ordered me down. I paused for a moment ; and just then, a youth of ruddy countenance, was pushing his way head foremost through the crowd. It was Bro. Hurd. At once, that scripture rushed into my mind, “ With whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness ?” And I said

to him, "What of Ramsbury?" He replied, "I preached a little earlier, and left the friends holding a prayer meeting, and got a horse and galloped over to meet you these five miles, as I heard you meant to be here." I said, "Where is your horse?" He replied, "A boy, for a penny, is holding him outside the congregation." I said, "Let me have it." So I was soon mounted, and preached my sermon riding along the streets. Some young men said, "It is easier to understand that sermon than the parson's in the church." We kept on in this town. Mr. Wooldridge opened his house for preaching, in Moon Lane, where I formed a society, and afterwards a chapel was built. Then another chapel was built at the other end of the town, a mile distant. But since, in place of these two, a large chapel has been built in the main street, very central. I had the pleasure of assisting to open this beautiful place of worship, by the solicitation of Mr. Phelps, and here saw numbers of old friends. Mr. Peck had long desired me to go to Hungerford. Bros. Jukes and Moor had preached there once or twice eighteen months before I went. But the hurling of flint stones by the mob made it dangerous, and they declined any further visits for the time. However, blessed be God, we were now able to hold on, and saw much good done at the place.

Mr. Wells, of Shefford, having commenced, at Mrs. Wells' request, to build us a house for preaching and to reside in, this gave me some care, and with other

concerns induced me to walk from Peasemore to Wootton Bassett, thirty-four miles, to tell Bro. Ride. But on my arrival there I found him in trouble about other matters, so did not unbosom my grief ; and after holding a meeting with him, I returned to my mission toil.

Mr. Ashley, the minister of the Union Chapel, in Newbury, sent me an invitation to preach in his place of worship. I accepted it, and fulfilled the appointment. This was the first sermon of a Primitive Methodist minister in this town.

A gentleman here having learned from us the polity of the body, and that lay delegation to Conference was one part of our government, said, "Then they will not go down, but live as a denomination." This encouraged me, for he was judicious and wise, and I believed him to be a good man.

During the autumn quarter, matters were at times very trying. The ground was disputed for several inches where Mr. Wells had built the house. However our friend maintained that he was right, but the Marquis had ordered his men to measure the ground. And such was the exercise going on in this affair when Mrs. Ride and the family arrived. But prayer was made incessantly, and especially one Saturday when we were all met in the house, and in a deep struggle we pleaded, and not in vain. Miss Smith rose from her knees and exclaimed, "The Lord has heard our cry, and the house will not be removed." At this our faith was strengthened, and we heard no more of the affair.

This gave us great relief of mind, and caused confidence to be established in the society, and with our friends in general.

Besides keeping our old ground, we opened several new places. And I bordered on Hampshire in my labours, with a prospect of good. At one place a man came in where I was, and said, "You don't need make the bad place appear worse than it is." I asked his reason for saying so, and he replied, "You talked of streaming brimstone and burning pitch, and a lake of fire." I referred him to Isaiah xxxiv. 8, 9, 10. "For it is the day of the Lord's vengeance, and the year of recompence for the controversy of Zion. And the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch. It shall not be quenched night nor day; the smoke thereof shall go up for ever: from generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it for ever and ever."

My friend rather disputed my applying this language to hell fire. But when I referred him also to Isaiah lxvi. 24, "Their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched:" especially when I referred to Mark ix. 43, 44, "And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off; it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched. Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched:" and Rev. xx. 14, 15, "And death and hell were cast into the lake of

fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life, was cast into the lake of fire."—At this application my friend yielded, and turned to the Lord, and he invited me to his house, and it became a home.

We also opened several other places towards Silchester, and not in vain, for at Ashfordhill and neighbourhood to this day there is a blessed work. Though we had a few friends yet I feared burdening them, so often left early, and wandered through new localities in quest of fresh openings, and often hungry enough. But one day finding a bean stalk with several full pods on it lying on the road as I was passing Baughurst, I made a dinner of it, and came to my appointment near King's Plaid.

September 5th.—We held our preparatory quarter day at Stratton, and it was a good time. At night we sung in a body up the street to the chapel, and had a powerful service ; good was done ; one soul was saved.

Tuesday, 6th.—I walked thirty miles to Hampstead Norris, and preached to several hundreds of peaceable people in the open air, lighted by a lantern hung on a pole. This answered very well. I felt much for these parts, and hoped to see good days. Compton was only two miles off, where a Mrs. Baker lived, who had heard Miss Smith preach on Illsley Downs. She was brought under deep convictions, and this led to our going there. At Alder, I preached first in the open air, where I believed much good would be done.

These three places lying convenient to Burnet Hill, gave us a great opportunity of family visiting on an extensive scale. During the week I visited and preached in several more neighbourhoods, which services were profitable.

Sunday, September 11th.—Attended the seven o'clock prayer meeting, at Ramsbury, and preached in the open air; many wept. Miss Smith was there, and had great liberty in preaching after I had done. We had peace, which was a matter of thankfulness, as our persecutors were not up? they were not aware of this service. This meeting was powerful. Walked nearly near seven miles to Ogbourn St. Andrews, and preached to a hard-hearted few in the open air. All was cold and dreary. By two o'clock I walked to Ogbourn St George. We had a powerful time in the sacrament. Glory, glory be to God! As I wanted to be at Broad Town, to take the road by the turnpike was a great way round; but by walking over the wild downs, I could save several miles. It now being star light, with little intermissions of clouds, I took my aim at starting; my point being N.W. by W., I kept a good course by observing the stars, and came, to my surprise, in two hours, just to the farm house of Mr. Thomas Tuck, one of our local preachers, but they were all gone to bed. However, they gladly rose to let me in, and I soon lay down, being very much tired. They were glad to see me.

Monday, Sept. 12th, was Quarter-day, and I was very thankful that we paid our way. Bro. Ride and

family were removed from Wootton Bassett, in Wiltshire, to Shefford, in Berkshire, to the house Mr. Wells had built, being a much better residence than the one they had left.

I had now entered on another quarter, and prayed that God would help and bless me. Last quarter many were brought to the Lord; the sayings of our opposers were confounded. Some said, "They will come to naught, and all their stir is but as the rattling of an empty wagon down a hill, or the running of a stream that ebbs over the gravel beds; they will soon be exhausted or gone entirely out of the country." Others gave us one month, six weeks, or three months. An officious man said, while he was holding a meeting one night at Chaddleworth, "In twelve months they will be gone; aye, they are like a cloud passing over." These sayings discouraged many from joining us. However, all their sayings, blessed be God, were put to silence. We took out another preacher; so that we were now five travelling preachers, and preached at about forty places. We opened several more neighbourhoods. When I preached first at Beenham they could scarcely tell what to make of us. The people stood peeping by their doors; a few came near to whom I preached, and I gave out for Miss Smith to preach there. This being a new thing many came out to hear her. The parson's son came and fired a gun off four or five times close to the congregation, in order to make an annoyance. But she

held her service, and the Lord helped. Soon after, Messrs. Clemens and Warner, with our friends Goddard and Kirby, and others, became trustees, and we built a chapel in twelve months after opening this place, and much good has been done in it. Glory be to God!

Sunday, 19th.—Held a prayer-meeting at Shefford, at six a.m. At half-past eight preached at Chaddleworth, and gladly met the newly-formed society; also held several more meetings that day that were profitable.

Sunday, 26.—Preached at H. Newtown, at ten, at Boxford, at one, and led class; and at Fawley, at five, I preached to a hardened few. But at seven, our house was full, at Shefford, and we had a good time. The following week I walked about seventy miles, and held a number of meetings. I visited from house to house in many places.

Sunday, Oct. 3rd, 1830.—Spoke at Kintbury in the morning; then at Hungerford, and held a meeting out of doors. From there I went to Wickham and preached. One soul got powerfully awakened. At seven, I held a prayer-meeting at Weston; two gloriously converted. Here the Lord is carrying on his work; and in many places the societies which had been formed in the summer now were gaining ground. When I look at these things I am almost lost in wonder. O that God would open our way more and more.

Dec. 12th, 1830.—I attended Quarter-day. What before had been called Berkshire mission was now called Shefford branch. We stood as follows:—fifty preach-

ing places, three hundred members, ten local preachers, and five travelling preachers. Glory be to God ! A good work was going on, so that, by God's blessing, we were able to pay our way, though amidst much opposition. The people, too, laboured in visiting, prayer meetings, &c., holding services in what houses they could, or in the open-air, and in as many new places as they could. Thus the infant churches raised last summer grew stronger, and became useful. To God be all the glory !

During this winter we had many difficulties, as at numbers of our places we had to preach in the open-air, and meet our classes in the same way. However, by dint of labour, with the Lords's help, we continued, though under great trials.

A severe affliction came on two or three of the preachers that made, in some cases, our sleeping difficult, and, in some instances, lodgings were scarce. Our trials in this were severe. I left Shefford one Saturday forenoon, in the winter, and walked ten miles to a new place, and preached in the open-air by moonlight, but had nowhere to stay, and was many miles from my Sabbath work. After some miles' walk I lay^d down in a barn, but was so cold I could not sleep ; so I left my lodgings, and walked on the road, when sleep again seemed oppressive. I lay down under a hedge, and slept an hour, and on awaking I seemed nearly frozen to the ground ; but I rose and started. After a run for some distance, I felt better, so took my

regular pace ; but when three miles past the World's End, sleep again was irresistible ; and seeing a cart-house, I found I could lie down between the wheel and the bank. This formed a little shelter, and I slept nearly two hours ; then rose, and by seven o'clock was at my appointment, and had a good meeting. Got breakfast at Mr. Kirby's, then preached at half-past ten. Two miles off, I preached at Beenham Green at two o'clock ; then back to Bradfield and preached ; after which, I walked to Shefford, fifteen miles, to sleep. After adjusting some matters the next day, I set off by way of Newbury, seeing to some of our affairs, and walked on to Compton, where I was glad of a cup of tea at Mr. Middleton's, and had a blessed meeting, when one more started for heaven. We had invitations to several new places, but the Quarter-day had shewn much opposition to this, and especially so as several contemplated a change of the married preacher ; but I still contended for Bro. Ride to remain, and urged an enlarging of the work, as I knew he was well adapted to keep the old ground good, while I was missioning new places. This caused a sharp struggle, yet I believed we were right in striving to forward the work ; and so Bro. Ride returned with me to Shefford. Afterwards, I was told by one of the travelling preachers, that one of the friends went out of the Quarter-day with all glee, rubbing his hands, and saying, " We have clipped Mr. Russell's wings this time." But I determined to proceed in missioning new places, as the Lord should open the way.

Jan. 2nd, 1831.—Preached at Chaddleworth, and led class ; one more joined. At two, spoke at Little Hungerford, and at six, at Cold Ash, to crowded congregations.

Monday, Jan. 3rd.—Preached at Beenham to a full congregation, and spoke to them of forming a society. I read the rules, and explained the nature of a class-meeting, as these things were new in this neighbourhood ; and several gave me their names.

Tuesday, 4th.—Visited extensively, and preached at Ashford Hill ; formed a society, and six joined.

Wednesday, 5th.—Visited twenty families, and preached at Bradfield to a steady congregation. After sermon, I invited all who wished to escape hell and get to heaven to stay. A number stayed, to whom I read the rules, and I exhorted them to join more fully together. We formed a society, and Mr. Kirby became the leader, and was very diligent.

Thursday, 6th.—Met Bro. Ride at Coombe, and spoke ; we had a very mighty time at prayer ; and one got very powerfully awakened while I was preaching. I had missioned this place a little while before, and I had fixed for Mr. Ride to be there that night, but deemed it to be the best way to meet him. They asked me to give them a comfortable sermon, as we should not have many that night, it being so very stormy. However Mr. Ride said afterwards, “You gave them a very alarming discourse, and the only vile sinner in the company got powerfully awakened.”

Friday.—Visited extensively by way of Newbury and Kintbury, and had a good meeting at Weston.

Saturday.—Returned to Shefford, and was very glad to hear that at the lovefeast Bro. Ride held last Sunday night in this place, seven were converted, and they joined Mrs. Ride's class the night following.

During the next three days I was at Aldbourne, Wanbro, Bishopstone, Hinton, and Ashbury, but was under a severe cloud of darkness.

Wednesday, Jan. 14th.—At Hungerford. Preached, and afterwards led class ; three more joined.

Thursday.—Visited nearly every family in the place, and formed a class at Coombe ; and while praying that that place might become the nursing mother in that part, a woman and girl from Cosen-street got powerfully brought into the good way. This I looked on as a token for good.

PART VIII.

Friday, Feb. 6th, 1831.—I preached at Hermitage, and formed a class at Mr. Miller's ; many wept, and five joined. I stayed there all night.

Saturday, 7th.—Preached and had a powerful time at Faccombe, in Hampshire. The snow was hard frozen, so it was slippery getting over the hills, but reached Coombe by half-past nine a.m. ; had a powerful time in family worship. I preached there at half-past six the next morning, then walked back thirteen miles to

Hermitage by noon ; preached and led class : one more joined.

Friday, 16th.—Preached at Faccombe for the first time of our missioning here. But oh ! the sorrow of my mind when entering this place. I thought, as I did at Ramsbury on my first going there, the powers of hell were sprung, and made at me. But God is greater than all. Glory be to his name. Amen.

Saturday, 17th.—Visited through Beenham, Boxford, Weston, and other places, and was glad to find the revival on the move in almost every place.

Sunday, 18th.—Preached at Eastbury, East Garsdon, and Shefford, to crowded congregations, and met the classes ; several more started for heaven. I was glad to see our friends on these occasions, and they were equally glad to see me.

Monday, 19th.—Preached and formed a society at Compton.

Tuesday, 20th.—Visited extensively, preached, and formed a society at Hampstead Norris.

Wednesday, 21st.—At Burnthill, and not in vain. As I was singing across the common a man started for heaven. I little thought that here a friend would rise to become a general help, especially as to giving the preachers a free invitation to his hospitable home, and finding money for chapel purposes in after years to the amount of many hundreds of pounds, and himself becoming a trustee. His son, then a child, grew up quite in love with Primitive Methodism, and

also became a travelling preacher; and he being the only child and sole heir, after his father's death he willed some hundreds of pounds to chapel purposes, besides freely giving the debts on Plumstead, Wallingford, Quicksgreen, and other places of worship. So that Mr. Nullis's name will be held in grateful remembrance by the church of which he was an ornament. I doubt not but father and son have met in the better world, along with numbers who went before; and I trust ere long, after life's toil is over, to gain the same company, and spend an eternity of glory with them. What a difference now in that locality to the night I was nearly perished with cold, while sleeping in an open cartshed, at my first missioning those parts. Here a thought suggests itself: How much more permanent the satisfaction, besides the good accomplished, from money thus expended, than if spent in dogs and sporting pursuits, or even in adventures of a doubtful course of secular matters. Mr. Nullis was always willing to return the last part of interest when any part of the principal was paid him back; thus encouraging the friends to be diligent in getting their chapel debts cleared off.

Our kind friends were very anxious about Reading, which has now, with the Bradfield side of the Shefford Circuit, become a very powerful circuit itself. I may remark our first entrance into that town was to visit a young person who had gone from Beenham to service, and I had to walk nine miles through the snow to get

there, and return for my evening appointment. The labour was great, but not in vain, as many rejoice for the good done in all those parts. Mr. Nullis upwards of thirty years since, exerted himself in procuring the first connexional chapel at Reading, and became a trustee ; the cost of which chapel was nearly eight hundred pounds. It stood in a very central situation, but in a back court, and was often too small for the congregation. Mr. Baker helped much in building school-rooms. I was at Brother Ride's, in Reading, at the time of the purchase, and felt much delight in his perseverance. Mr. Ride desired me to accompany him to the gentleman, some miles away, who let them have the mortgage. We stayed all night ; and after prayer the next morning, the gentleman acceded to our request by allowing his son John to be a trustee in that very weighty undertaking.

Some years since, Mr. Thomas Waite, of Beenham, went to reside at Reading, and the work of the Lord progressing, their chapel was at times not convenient ; so he, with others, contemplated a larger and better place, and they had a good opportunity of selling their old chapel very advantageously. And ultimately, when the Rev. P. Coates was there, they purchased a spacious lecture-hall, with convenient rooms, in one of the best streets in Reading ; and here often above one thousand people listen to the word of life. Mr. I. S. Nullis not only helped in this effort, but has left five hundred pounds towards our building a second chapel in the town.

But now, resuming my narrative, I have to speak of opening up new ground.

Thursday, Jan. 22nd.—Preached at Stanmore ; and one started for heaven at this meeting.

Friday, 23rd.—Visited and preached at East Illsley. Miss Smith first came here ; but a vile man came up, and swore that none of us should preach here ; but she believed the Lord could turn the lion into a lamb ; and it was so, for conviction seized his conscience, and he turned to the Lord. So did Mr. Charles Wilsher. This excellent brother became very useful in the Maidenhead Station ; and at Chalvey was the means of purchasing a good chapel, and promoting good.

Saturday, 24th.—I walked eighteen miles through the snow to Faccombe, preached, and joined three together as a society.

Sunday, 25th.—At Hungerford ; preached at seven, and had a mighty time. At ten, at Kintbury ; a crowded congregation ; tears flowed here also. At one p.m., preached at Hungerford, and led class ; one more joined. Held a meeting again at six, which was powerful.

Monday, at Peasemore ; Tuesday, East Garsdon ; Wednesday, at Hungerford ; Thursday, at Combe ; and Friday, at Faccombe : visiting, preaching, and meeting the societies every day, and I saw good done. I had invitations to some new places further on in Hampshire. During the following week I was on Bradfield side, and saw a prospect of good.

Friday, Feb. 6th.—I preached at Hermitage, and formed a class at Mr. Miller's ; five joined.

Saturday, 7th.—Preached, and had a powerful time; and also, Sunday, 8th., at seven a. m., preached again at Coombe ; thence thirteen miles back to Hermitage by twelve. Preached and led class ; one more joined : it was a soul-melting time. At two p. m., we had a great congregation at Little Hungerford ; and also at Cold Ash at night we were crowded. I do long for more of the Lord's power. When I visit diligently, good is done ; when I neglect this, I have no rest, but much sorrow, as if something was wanting. My heart is drawn out for a new mission. At the time I missioned Shefford, my thoughts were,—God blessed East Garsdon society for their labours at Shefford. I often thought we were blessed more at Shefford after making the first collection there than before, though I was opposed in making that collection. The more we missioned the more God blessed us, both in grace and substance.

It was much now on my mind to fully go into a fresh line of labour in Hampshire ; but Mr. Ride reminded me of the last quarter-day resolution, “not to open any more places, but cultivate the parts we had.” This I felt quite determined for us to strive for, but not to let the other be undone. So I offered to go on the new ground at my own risk, and thus to bear the cost or loss, if the new ground did not raise my salary. Hence my application to quarter-day was complied

with, and I began to make arrangements accordingly.

Sunday, April 10th.—I walked thirteen miles to Ashfordhill, and preached twice. Walked twenty miles after to Lambourne to sleep.

Monday morning.—Walked twenty miles more to Brinkworth, and was glad indeed to meet my old friends, Messrs. J. Bourne and G. Taylor, with many other friends who had come to the District Meeting. I was appointed to speak at night in the missionary meeting. We had a good time. The Rev. John Britain especially prayed for me and the intended Hampshire mission. It was a weighty undertaking, my encountering the Hampshire concern. I had seen difficulties surmounted in Berkshire, but how it would be now I knew not. The work had gained a good stand in our former mission labours, but now I was going alone to a strange part. The newly missioned places which I had seen success in I gave up to Bro. Ride ; and as he had some faithful, vigorous colleagues, I knew they would be well attended. So in that I felt a gladness of heart ; and particularly as I could occasionally go to see them, and believed the work would go on in the low country, and beyond the Lambourne Downs.

Thus with mingled feelings I started on my new enterprise ; and on Sunday, April 17th, 1831, I began at Hurstbourn Tarrant (commonly called Up Husbourn). Here no religious community could ever make any headway ; so for years it had been void. " Church

and King!" was their cry; "No Ranters here!" But a champion for pugilism encouraged us on. I went first singing—

"Come, O come, thou vilest sinner,
Christ is waiting to receive;
Weak and wounded, sick and sore,
Jesu's balm can cure more.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah to the Lamb."

The few friends who came from Coombe and Facombe helped me in singing. Mr. John Jones had given his word that no one should molest us, or it should be to their hurt, for he declared he would lose the last drop of blood in his body sooner than I should be hindered in my work. Besides this, a Roman Catholic gentleman came to listen; and while preaching I told them that "the Bible was not sent for the black and blue coats to get a good fat living by, but to teach the people the road to heaven." This remark struck the gentleman amusingly, and he laughed heartily, and said, "This is the sort of preaching that is wanted here." And he further said, "If any one of my servants opposes Mr. Russell, or persecutes him, he shall leave my service; or, indeed, if any tenants of mine try to hinder him, they will have my disapproval." Besides this, he afterwards invited me to call; and as a Friday was the only day I could look in, I made that appointment. He very kindly received me, and had lunch prepared for me, a great round of beef. On our sitting down he remarked, "We Catholics don't eat

flesh meat on Fridays." I remarked, "I hope, sir, you allow liberty of conscience." His reply was, "Yes, sir. It is no command of God; it is only a command of the Church, and you don't belong to us." Many a visit I afterwards paid him, and told him to invite my colleagues, and shew them the same kindness. I afterwards had the pleasure of introducing our venerable father in the gospel, and Mr. Blunt said, "Mr. Bourne looked more like one of the old prophets than any one that I have ever seen." The same day I preached at Littledown and Lincolnholt with great freedom of spirit, and several were awakened to a sense of their danger.

Monday, 18th.—I preached at Vernham Dean to a steady congregation. At the close, a woman came, weeping bitterly, and said, "Sir, my husband heard you preach yesterday at Littledown, and he desires to turn into the better way; and I want to find mercy." I felt much as she stood weeping; and then she added, "We have a comfortable cottage: I will sleep with the children, and you can sleep with my husband at any time when you like; and we shall both be glad to see you." This was cheering.

The Monday after in the same place, after preaching, a man came to me in bitter distress, weeping, and said, "Mr. Russell, I shall have to thank God to all eternity that I ever heard your voice in Berkshire above a year ago: God then awakened me. I now have the care of a farm two miles from here. I have a good bed, and

plenty of every thing. Come at any time, by night or by day, and make my house your home." I could not but be thankful for these instances of the Lord's mercy and goodness; for I had prayed that He would give me a home to go to at any time; and in these cases I acknowledged a direct answer of prayer, and saw the hand of God in thus making my way plain.

During the week I was every day engaged in missioning at Woodhay, High Clere, and Burgh Clere, visiting by day, and preaching every night. Being cautious not to burden my new acquaintances, I spent Saturday in Berkshire, and had a blessed course of services with my old friends.

Sunday, April 24th.—Preached for the first time at Ashmansworth. It was a powerful time: tears flowed. All was peaceable except the constable, but he made a disturbance. After I had done, the people thanked me, and asked me to come again. At ten, I preached at Faccombe: the Lord was with us. At two, preached at Up Husbourn to about two hundred; several were serious, but others seemed inclined for a disturbance. But the Lord, who has helped elsewhere, I believe will help here also. At five, preached at Little Down; at seven, at Lincolnholt: we had good times. At Lincolnholt I was struck with the great attention which the largest family in the village seemed to pay to the word. This family became great helpers in different ways. Mr. Michael Osmond gave me the first shilling towards helping on the new mission. He became our

first member ; then afterwards his brothers Richard and Stephen also joined, and became local preachers ; their sister also became a very eminent minister with us, and was highly esteemed. Others also of their family did much good ; their labourers and workpeople attended our meetings, and many were converted there. This evening, after preaching, I held a prayer meeting, and then formed the first class in this mission. So here is a beginning. This was to me a comfort. I believe and labour for a revival.

Monday, 23rd.—I visited many families, and preached to a large congregation at Vernham Dean. We had a powerful time : several were awakened.

During the week I laboured at Inkpen, East Woodhay, High Clere, and Burgh Clere, and had solemn times.

Saturday, 30th —Extensive visiting, and saw good done.

Sunday, May 1st.—At Ashmansworth. I preached at eight a.m. on the green ; good was done. Then hastened to Facombe, and heard Bro. Ride ; we had a powerful time. I took him with me to Hurstbourne, where he preached. I preached at Upton. I understand there never was any preaching here before ; so the aged people informed me. On my approaching the great tree, a number of young men were lying round its banks. At first they seemed inclined to dispute my standing there, but my speaking kindly to them caused one to let me stand where he was lying.

I had a powerful time. From hence Thomas Cummin followed us. We had great times at Littledown and Lincolnholt. He got awakened to a sense of his danger, and turned to the Lord. Some time after, Bro. Cummin, with five or six others, in one meeting I held at Upton, found salvation. That was a glorious night ; indeed, never to be forgotten. Also, a younger brother of Thomas had some inclination to attend the meeting, but he enlisted ; and since his return home, he told me he was determined to make the best he could of it. So he resolutely learned his exercise ; and before the time was up for him to be considered a full private, he had become a corporal ; ultimately he ascended to the different degrees of sergeant, and acting sergeant-major. During the Crimean War he with his comrades suffered much. When the assault was made on the Redan, he led his men right into the thickest of the conflict, and entered that desperate scene of slaughter. Seeing two of the Russian cannon vomiting great slaughter and death amongst the English, he said, " I saw those two guns must be spiked, and I rushed forward and put the plugs in them, while my men followed me close up. I was just under a Russian soldier, who was wielding his great heavy sword to cut me down. I quickly drew my sword, and severed his sword arm from his body, and cleared all before me. But our bugle sounded a retreat, and as many of us as could returned. I felt solemn, but believed God could save me walking as well as running ; so I used my sword as I would a

walking-stick, and safely got back." After that, he was promoted to be an ensign. And he shewed me several instruments signed by the Queen, all of which spoke of "Our beloved Isaac Cummin, gentleman," &c., &c. This friend was, when I saw him in February, 1867, a half-pay officer, and glad was he to see me, and talk of our early days. Thomas held fast to religion, was soon put on the plan, and made good progress. In three years he became a travelling preacher, and was much esteemed in our itinerant ranks; but he is now superannuated, and living at Newbury, three miles from where his brother lives. I little thought that Upton and the Hampshire mission was going to be so renowned. Also another youth in Upton, now the Rev. Mr. Johnson, obtained religion (I think when at school), and became an Independent minister, and now spends several weeks yearly in London and among other principal Congregational churches, being much respected by that worthy body of christians. I believe that gentleman received his good amongst them. He now resides at Upton, where he has built a chapel, and also another chapel at Hurstbourn Tarrant; and they have an excellent helper constantly labouring as a village preacher.

Monday, May 2nd.—Visited in many places, and preached at Vernham Dean to hundreds in the open air, and commenced a class.

Tuesday, 3rd.—At Inkpen. I commenced my service in the road, after extensive visiting; but a man came and blew a French horn with great eagerness. I

let him go on till he was tired, then I preached until he had taken breath ; and then he began again. So I let him have his swing at the horn until he ceased ; and then I took my turn. Thus after a number of rounds each, I concluded after he was gone away.

When I first went to Coombe I was afraid of a confusion. One night the son was blowing at the only candle the father was lighting us with. I shifted my stand, and stood just before him, and altered my subject to Luke xiii. 5 : “ Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish ;” and preached *at him* at the very top of my voice. Afterwards he said, “ Mr. Russell is the only man there or in that part that durst stand before me.” This man’s sister obtained some good, and joined our class with her father and mother. And when missioning a place two miles off, a very tall man, a gentleman’s servant, came to annoy us, and would look close under the women’s bonnets, and ask, “ Are you born again ?” “ Are you converted ?” “ Have you repented of your evil deeds ?” &c. With this kind of work Miss Jones felt annoyed, and said, “ I will tell my brother of thee.” She, on arriving home, fulfilled her word, and her brother asked when the next meeting would be held there, and said, “ I’ll go and see if I can pick a quarrel with him.” Accordingly he came ; and the gentleman’s footman was there, following his usual course. At the close of my service I gave out for another meeting. The man in livery shouted at me some slang talk ; but Master Jones gently touched him, and said, “ If thou canst

not behave thyself, walk out of the company." At this he struck Jones in the breast. "Is that it?" said the young woman's brother. A battle ensued, and soon both were sprawling on the ground. They soon had each their backers, and stripped. A regular combat ensued; but the man in gay clothing was glad to give it up; so we all peaceably parted, and I saw him no more. However, I saw a good work of religion in these parts.

Thus I went on until Quarter-day; I had joined thirty members, and raised all the cost of the mission, so we were no burden; and the Shefford side paid its way. I was thankful for this. Having invitations to new places, I applied to Quarter-day for another preacher, and they allowed me Miss Smith. My labours had been extensive, and I mostly walked about one hundred miles and visited as many families in the week, besides preaching twelve or thirteen times, forming societies, holding prayer meetings, &c. Thus my time had been fully occupied; and now I thought we might principally confine our labours to Hampshire. But Elizabeth had her mind set on Newbury, which took us into other places in Berkshire, and our borders were enlarged.

At Little Hungerford a large camp meeting was held, and while Miss Smith was preaching, a man from Newbury was powerfully awakened, and he invited us to his house. I went, and preached there, and soon formed a society; and after some time, we took the old

building that Mr. Wesley preached in. This place we fitted up, and it became our place of worship until the chapel in which I preached soon after my liberation from prison was offered for sale. Our friends intended to purchase ; but the auctioneer and his friends ran it up to a great price, and our people stopped at £650, which was as far as they durst go. But some days after, the owners sent word it could be had for that money, and our friend at Weston found the money on mortgage. It has undergone great improvements, and is now galleried, and school-rooms have been built ; and there is a double house for the preacher's residence. It must have been a great undertaking for Mr. Price and the friends to venture on so large a purchase, when it was said the mahogany pulpit and pulpit stairs would hold all the members we had in Newbury. But a revival set all agoing. And when Mr. Sharman built the house he had little prospect, until he laid the case before our friend Mr. Baker, of Reading, who kindly promised nearly all the cost, if the friends in Newbury would raise the rest. This was done. Mr. Wallis has done well in the recent improvements. The whole is now a beautiful property, and hundreds have been converted there. Glory be to God ! And it is now the head of a very powerful circuit.

I had for some weeks had invitations to preach in other places in Hampshire ; so now made my way to Bindley, where Miss Farr (now Mrs. Price) got awakened and converted. Her parents, too, joined

society, and afterwards scores were converted in their house. It was the Bethel for that side of the country. I also missioned Stoke, where the Rev. Henry Yeates has lately built a beautiful chapel, and also one at Hurstbourn Tarrant. In both villages many have been saved. And I went to St. Mary Bourne also. In one place there was a man living unmarried, who had by the same woman a large family, who got deeply awakened, and was very anxious now to get married. But the authorities to whom he applied said, "Hast not got a woman? what more dost want?" The poor man replied, "I wish to be married, as I am doing wrong in my present way of living." It is a joy to think great numbers have here experienced a change of heart, and some have become very useful in the work.

I felt great joy three years since in preaching at the anniversary of their excellent chapel at Bourne, when they raised about eighteen pounds; whereas, from the appearance of the place one would have thought they could not raise eightpence. They requested me to go again, and I did so; and they raised upwards of twenty pounds. And Bro. James Hurd, who laboured with us in Hampshire, had a great service at their last year's anniversary. These things are very cheering. We have a sound good church there.

What a difference between this poor looking village, in Hampshire, and a place in the further end of the nation where the circuit was short of paying their

preachers' salaries. I went to help them ; walked nineteen miles, had nineteen people to preach to, and got nineteen pence at a collection. But I may say the people were kind and rendered further help afterwards. Here I had a pleasing account of Mr. John Oxtoby, whom they knew well, and highly esteemed.

From hence I had invitations to Down Hurstbourne and Mitcheldever, Winchester, and other places. I urged them to write to Quarter-day, and Mr. Ride thought we might accede to their wish ; so we agreed for Miss Smith to take the first round there. She went ; the Lord was with her, and many were converted. Here Bros. Robert Langford and Henry Green became members and preachers—first local, and then travelling,—and have maintained a good course.

During this summer, one morning early, a letter came from my brother William, saying my mother was dangerously ill, and that she was anxious to see me. I had not seen her for more than two years, so I at once made what arrangements I could, and hastened to Newbury ; it being the general market-day, saw many of our friends, and I made further arrangements for my work. Then walked on to Marston, where Bro. Ride was planned, and told him that I was going into Cheshire. He asked me what money I had ; I told him, " A few shillings." He said, " And what is that to do in nearly four hundred miles' travelling ?" So he at once took out his purse, and handed me all he had, which was about thirty shillings. Thus replenished, next morning at

four o'clock, I set out for Worcester, which was fifty-five miles, and in sixteen hours was in that city, having walked every step of the road ; thus making ninety miles' walk in two days.

Here I met with Bro. Samuel Turner for the first time ; he was supplying for a travelling preacher, and he shewed me great kindness. Next morning, he went with me to the coach-office ; and by five o'clock I was seated, and I rode to Newcastle in Staffordshire for sixteen shillings. Then I walked round by Shelton and Hanley, and other places in the Potteries, to Bemersley, ten miles. I had been away above two years. All were glad to see me. We had a blessed time together in conversation and prayer.

Next morning, I walked ten miles to Sandbach, and preached ; then on five miles further to Middlewich, and went to the meeting : John Buxton was preaching. The whole congregation was almost instantly bathed in tears. I feared for my mother, and durst scarcely ask about her health ; but was soon told she was a little better. A friend ran home to say that I had come, thus to prepare my mother's mind for my arrival. After tea, I preached in the street, and old companions listened attentively, and they followed me to the preaching room, the old malthouse, where we had a glorious time.

During the week, I spent four days with my mother, and held several meetings ; then went to Manchester, to see my brother Elijah. Mr. Sugden asked me to supply

three appointments. The Rev. Wm. Paddison, then superintendent, shewed me kindness.

On the Sabbath, I preached at half-past ten in Dean's-gate ; at half-past two, in Oxford-street, both times in the open air ; and at six, in Jersey-street Chapel, and gave an account of our southern enterprise and my imprisonment. Many wept, and two souls were converted to God.

The next day, I returned twenty-five miles to Middlewich. Spent the following days with my mother, father, and brother ; they were very kind. And on Sunday, accompanied by my sister, I went to Congleton camp-meeting, where Mr. Hugh Bourne met us. We had eight souls converted. And the day following, we had a tender parting ; we all wept. During the week, I got back to Hampshire.

PART IX.

September Quarter-day.—Mr. Ride desired me to throw all our Hampshire labour into the Shefford department, and for us to travel round. We had in Hampshire more than paid our way, and we had a good prospect before us. On Mr. Bourne crossing this country, he thought the Hampshire hills might form the boundary of two circuits, and I might take Hampshire. But I said, “No, Sir,” as I was very much attached to Mr. Ride, and we wrought well together. Besides, I wanted Shefford circuit made stronger before

a separation ; and I felt for Mr. Ride's family, and Mrs. Ride was a great counsellor to all of us, and I respected them very much.

During the coming quarter we made preparations for becoming a circuit, separate from Brinkworth circuit. Our income was over forty pounds, which was five pounds above paying our way. We were upwards of six hundred members, and Brinkworth about four hundred. They could better pay their way, as they were only single men ; and we had more preachers, and besides, one was a married man with a family. So in this I succeeded in argument, and the parent circuit yielded to let us go. And we took our farewell, with a good understanding that we would help each other at any suitable time. Mr. Samuel West took charge of Brinkworth circuit, but often came to see us at Shefford, and we were always glad to see him. He was mighty in prayer.

After our return, and having made our plan, we determined on moving on in our new line of mission labour. Miss Smith had been to the Mitcheldever side, but had returned, and was spending a few days at Shefford. When the morning came that she had to go away, a long course of affliction had so weakened her, that in rising she could scarcely take any breakfast ; and she felt distressed for Sutton Scotney, where the appointment was that night. I at once offered to go ; the distance was twenty-five miles. At seven I started, and walked there, making a few visits on the road, and reached the place in nine hours. I walked through

the place, and ascertained which was the cottage ; and calling on a few families, I got a little information, and by seven the house was crowded. I preached, and had a cry for mercy : several wept bitterly, and good was done. The day after, I returned, after having made arrangements for future appointments, and I fell into my own work on the Shefford side.

In a few days, Elizabeth got back to her labour, but we took that part also into the circuit round ; and thus we pursued our way with diligence in this extensive tract of country, nearly fifty miles long and about thirty miles wide, all to be done by walking, except when we became known to the carriers on the high road, when they sometimes felt glad to give us a lift by the way.

During this winter, we had one hundred and ten increase, and an extra income of money in proportion ; and we called out another travelling preacher. Mr. Ride and I divided our appointments as well as we could, that we might be at the different places, to see to the management in the best way possible. We had excellent colleagues, in whom we could confide, which was a matter of great thankfulness. But there was evidently a need of making regulations for an extended line of missionary labour the coming season.

Accordingly, at March Quarter-day, we fixed for Miss Smith to spend as much time as possible on the Mitcheldever and Winchester side. She opened some new places, at one of which a number of young men

very maliciously strung up a lot of dead rats, and after tearing them open, hung them in a row on a long stick, and suspended them just before her face ; and as she turned they still waved them before her. But happily Elizabeth could preach with closed eyes, and thus she got through her service. But one place failed, and she blamed me for it. But I said, " Being near forty miles away on another round, how could I be there ?" " Yes," was the reply ; " you would have gone if your heart had been in it." I then replied, " I did go, and a young farmer came and bitterly cursed at me, and hawked and spit in my face, and in a malicious manner offered to fight me, gripping his hands, and quavering them before me nearly all through my sermon." This ended our debate, but not our grief for that village in the wood.

The time was now drawing nigh when we should fully fix our minds for our spring campaign in 1832, in another part of Berkshire. We had braved many a difficulty, and had had much to endure and undergo ; and I suppose the Lord permitted those things to come upon us, to fit us for trials of a worse kind and persecutions of a bitterer cast.

Wantage had long lain on my mind. We had seen many converted at Childrey, and here we had above thirty meeting in class. It was pleasing to look at their class-paper ; for though many of the young people were only getting on an average about sevenpence per day for working in the fields, and even young men

about the same for farm labour, and they had to sleep in lone barns, to mind the horses or sheep, and this sum had to find them food, and about four or five pounds at Michaelmas was allowed them to buy clothes: and the labouring men had about seven shillings a week: yet notwithstanding this low state of wages they kept up their weekly contributions. So at times, a whole quarter's class-paper of twenty or thirty members would be presented to a leaders' meeting with not even an *s*, a *b*, a *d*, or even a *p*; but with the well-known figure 1 in every column. And as to their contributions at ticket-renewals, scarcely any was over a shilling, and scarcely any under sixpence. And all other calls were equally bravely responded to.

Mr. Jukes and I, at my first going there, were holding a meeting in the street, when a rough-looking man shouldered a large dog, and thrust him at us, saying, "Convert this dog;" another brought an ass's foal, saying, "Convert this young donkey." Another molester, as I was passing the road one dark night, assaulted me, and beat my head and shoulders, which caused me to think in future I had better not carry a lighted lanthorn, as in the dark I could better protect myself.

However, notwithstanding these things, we made headway; and afterwards Miss Smith, with others, became a great blessing at Childrey; and the young women took to her neat pattern in dress, besides becoming very mighty in prayer, and labouring for the

good of others ; and some good labourers were raised up. Such a society as this was worthy to have extra labours opened out by its side ; yet the likeliness of heavy persecution had its weight on our minds. But I felt fixed to arrange my labours for that part of the circuit, and to commence at Wantage.

I think the following, taken from the History of the Connexion, by Mr. Petty, may be inserted here. At page 229 we read as follows :—

“ Mr. Russell entered upon the Farringdon Mission in full expectation of severe persecution, in which he was not deceived. Before four o'clock in the morning of the third Sunday in April, 1832, he prepared for his journey to the scene of his intended missionary operations. His mind was oppressed with the burden of the work before him, and the dread of persecution and suffering ; but he was supported by a sense of the divine approval and the hope of success. When he arrived at the summit of a hill about two miles from Wantage, he saw the town lying before him, and instantly a dread of what awaited him well nigh overcame him. He met two men who knew him, and they advised him to return on account of the severe persecution which they expected he would have to encounter. He thanked them for their sympathy, but went forward on his journey. At nine o'clock he stood up in the market-place, and began to sing a hymn. He next knelt down and prayed, and concluded without molestation. But ere he commenced preaching, a number of

ruffians surrounded him, and he had not spoken long when a more violent company arrived, and pushed him from his standing-place, driving him before them like a beast. He heard some of them cry, 'Have him down Mill-street.' And suspecting, perhaps properly, that they intended to throw him into the river, which flows at the bottom of that street, he determined if possible to prevent being driven down it, and managed to keep in the market-place. After being driven to and fro an hour or more, his inhuman persecutors paused, when Mr. Russell threw open his waistcoat, and in the true spirit of a martyr cried, 'Lads ! if the shedding of my heart's blood will contribute to your salvation, I am willing for it to be shed on these stones.' At this moving statement, those who were nearest him drew back a little, and seemed to relent ; but a violent gang outside the throng pushed forward, and urged the rest to action. A respectable looking person, who Mr. Russell afterwards learned was the chief constable, came to him and said, 'If you will leave, all will then be quiet.' Mr. Russell replied, 'If I have broken the law, punish me according to the law, and not in this manner.' The constable then withdrew, without ever attempting to quell the lawless mob, who again assailed the solitary missionary with ruthless violence. At length the beadle came *in his church livery*, and seized Mr. Russell by the collar, and led him to the end of the town, *and with a thrust pushed him along, and bade him 'Begone !'* Mr. Russell's strength was

almost exhausted with the violent usage he had suffered in the market-place, but determined, if possible, to address those who had followed him thither, he stood on the side of a hedge bank, and preached as well as he was able. But his persecutors were not yet satisfied ; they pelted him with stones, eggs, mud, and everything they could render available for the purpose. Even women, unmindful of the tenderness of their sex, joined in this cruel treatment ; some of them knocked the dirt out of their patten rings to cast at the preacher. When Mr. Russell concluded the service, he was covered from head to foot with slime, mud, rotten eggs, and other kinds of filth ; and his clothes were torn, and his flesh bruised. As soon as he got alone by the side of a canal, he took off his clothes and washed them. Then putting them on wet, ‘enduring hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ,’ he proceeded to Farringdon, where similar treatment befel him. When he came to a pool of water outside the town, he washed his clothes a second time, and then went five miles further to Shrivenham, where he met with another violent reception. At a brook he cleansed himself a third time, and then proceeded to another village, where he preached in peace, except that a person threw a stone or other hard material at him, which cut his lip. After this he walked six miles to Lambourne, to rest for the night. He had been on foot eighteen hours, had walked thirty-five miles, had preached four times, and gone through an amount of

suffering such as none but a strong healthy man could have endured. Next day, however, he walked twenty miles to the other side of his mission, and during the week preached at several fresh places. On the following Sabbath, he visited Wantage and Farringdon again, as well as another place or two, and held a service with a large camp of gipsies. At this time Farringdon was more violent *if possible* than Wantage. Mr. Fox, of Farringdon, a respectable gentleman belonging to the Society of Friends, thinking that his house and the neighbouring ones of Messrs. Reynolds would awe the persecutors, kindly offered Mr. Russell the privilege of standing in front of these mansions. The next two Sabbaths, Mr. Russell had some peace; but on the third, the mob had recovered their *diabolical* courage, and again became violent. The next time Mr. Russell went, Mr. Fox met him, and said, 'Friend Russell, dost thou find it in thy heart yet to come to Farringdon?' Mr. Russell assured him that he intended to persevere in his efforts. 'Then,' said Mr. Fox, 'thou must not stand near our residences, for we cannot bear to see the hard usage thou hast to endure.' Mr. Russell therefore repaired to his former standing-place, and encountered a violent mob, as before, who pelted him and his friends with potatoes, eggs, and other missiles, till his spirits were at length broken, and he could not refrain from weeping. An inhabitant of the town said, 'If I had a dog which had to suffer what that man endures, I would cut his head off, to put him out of

his misery.' Mr. Fox wrote to a clerical magistrate of his acquaintance in behalf of Mr. Russell ; and this worthy replied, 'The people have as much right to take the course they do, as the preacher has to preach in the streets.' With such gentlemen as he for magistrates, it was no wonder that an uneducated and irreligious populace should assail the humble messenger of Christ with maddened fury. The propriety of continuing to visit this town, under these circumstances, was seriously questioned by some of Mr. Russell's best and most judicious friends ; but he determined to persevere in spite of all the opposition he had to encounter, and the sufferings he had to endure. Thinking that five o'clock in the morning of a working day would be the best time for preaching at Farringdon, he decided upon preaching there at that hour, though he should have eight miles to walk thither for the purpose. He kept this resolution, and nobly persevered in his perilous enterprise. Good was done in the midst of the violent persecution, and he was cheered with the hope of ultimate success. Friends also were raised up at other places on the mission, who rendered liberal aid towards his support. So encouraging on the whole was the aspect of things at the June Quarterly Meeting of the circuit, that Mr. W. Wiltshire was appointed to assist Mr. Russell, that the borders of the mission might be enlarged."

Besides Mr. Wiltshire, we thought well to take out Miss Wheeler, but this pious young woman could not

bear up under the toil ; then Miss Evans, but the journeys were too severe, and persecution too violent ; afterwards Miss Godwin, who became useful. But half of one of the preacher's labours had to be partly on the Shefford side. My labours were chiefly on the newground, but we kept all the vale as one station ; only the Rev. James Hurd had opened a line of labour at Marlborough, and I changed with him. This faithful friend accompanied me one Sunday morning to Wantage, and going into the town I said, " Now, be sure, mind and stop and preach where I give you the twitch by the arm, and do not leave till you have preached ; then follow me to the west end." He replied, " But when you are gone they will abuse me." I said, " Nay, the rebels do not know you ; I am their game, and they will follow me, and I will soon have them outside the town, out of your way, and preach to them too before I have done with them." James obeyed, and stood to his arms like a man ; and afterwards told me he had above two hundred peaceable hearers. When he came up, I had above five hundred, to whom I was preaching from a hedge bank, and numbers of them were vile, such as I never wish to look on again.

Mr. Ride accompanied me one Sabbath day's round in this mission, when we were pelted most fearfully by the mob. I was sorry to see my friend's clothes nearly destroyed, and at night he was very weary.

In one place I had borrowed a chair to stand on while preaching ; the mob came down on me with vio-

lence, and bore me off my feet. They broke the chair to pieces, and beat me with the fragments, and I had to pay the family three shillings to replace it. Seeing a large stone, about four feet high, I got upon it, hoping there to finish my sermon ; but the constable came behind me slyly, and suddenly pushed me off, and but for being active with my feet, I must have gone head foremost on the gravel road ; but I managed to keep my feet amidst this vile usage. My thumb was cut, however, and bled profusely for a considerable way on my journey, which was nearly fifteen miles to the next place, at which I held an open-air meeting on a hill side, and the meeting was refreshing.

When missioning Blewbury, a place much noted for the growth of cherries, tons of which were yearly sent to London market, I felt the cold keenly ; but I saw a very steady-looking young man in the meeting, and my heart was drawn to him. I followed him after service, as he went towards his home, to have some talk with him, and I found he had got some good that night. So I asked his name, and where he lived. He replied, " William Jones ; and I live on the Downs." I advised him to join society, and fully give his heart to God. He very willingly joined, so became the first member there, and soon obtained salvation. He became useful as a local preacher ; and in some years after, came out to travel. I have with joy beheld the fruit of his labours in some of the stations on which he travelled, and his memory is much esteemed ; but now

he rests from his labours. O may I meet him in a better world. I returned to Mr. Barlow's to sleep, at Compton. Mr. and Mrs. Cozens, now of Windsor Forrest, early obtained good ; they are now both useful pious local preachers in the Maidenhead circuit.

At one place, a little boy came to meeting with stones in his pocket, to throw at the preacher ; but the poor fellow was much struck, little as he was, with the sermon on Jer. viii. 20 : " The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." I discoursed on preparations for harvest, tilling the ground, ploughing in the cold of winter, and how the driver often was tried when the horses or oxen did not go well ; and then spoke of sowing the seed and harrowing, and sometimes cross-harrowing, and remarked it was sometimes vexing, and caused the man to say bad words and beat the driver. But that, by persevering, all was overcome ; and then, afterwards, how " the seed sprung up, first the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear ;" and the broad acres looked very beautiful when the crops waved in the wind. Then, when fully ripe, how the grain bent down at the ear, especially the golden wheat, the bearded barley, and the dangling oats. Then soon the harvest men and women, with boys and maidens, all got ready with scythes and sickles, and went in joyous companies to reap. This sort of talk amused the lad ; and instead of throwing the stones, he listened. I called the attention of the congregation to Matt. xiii. 39 : " The harvest is the

end of the world, and the reapers are the angels ;” and sung—to the tune of “ Rule Britannia”—

“ And soon the reaping time will come,
And angels shout the harvest home.”

And as I opened out “the terrors of the judgment day,” and showed that “the wicked will be turned into hell, with all the nations that forget God,” the poor boy dropped the stones one by one till all were gone ; and he ran home, and told three other children that the preacher had been talking about the end of the world, and he said “that should it come after harvest how awful it would be.” They all became serious, and began to weep and pray, and got into the way of religion. Of these youths, one became a Wesleyan local preacher, another a Baptist missionary, another an Independent minister, and the other a Primitive Methodist local preacher. This information I had from Bro. I. S. Nullis in after life, and it gladdened my heart to learn it.

During the above time of persecutions I went a long way to Peasemore, to meet Mr. Ride. He accompanied me some miles when leaving. We had serious talk on the way about the Farringdon mission, when he advised me to give it up, saying, “I expect some day to hear thou wilt be murdered.” But I said, “Nay, sir, I will tug at it.” We paced the hill side a considerable time, and now and then knelt down to pray. I felt my mind much relieved, and we parted under covenant to pray constantly for each other.

At Wantage the persecution continued very severe. Never shall I forget one Sabbath morning, as I stood at the upper end of Back-street. The vicious mob drove on at a terrible rate; but scores of my friends from Childrey, Ramsbury, and many other places, had met me, and they formed a treble line in the form of a crescent of some space, from my right hand to my left. Then the wicked throng would rush on them with a violent pushing force, but my friends stood firm and patient, as they formed a body guard, protecting me from violence. Among the wicked throng, one man more vile than the rest, who was about ten yards distant from me, aimed with all vengeance an underhand whirl of a brick right at my face; but I had then just turned my head quickly round the corner to speak to the people at my left, so it scarcely grazed the right side of my face; else I am of opinion, from the force with which it struck the wall behind me as I stood on a chair, I must have fallen into the hands of death at this time. After service, when leaving the town, as I was passing the old embankments of the place where they said King Alfred was born, some one threw a stone from behind a hedge, which struck me on the head; and if I had not had a strong felt hat on, my head must have been severely cut. But Charles Carter kindly took hold of me and held me up, and helped me on, for I was very weary and sickly, being stunned from the blow.

At another time, a young man stepping up behind

me as I was preaching, ingeniously drew a cabbage net over my head, to raise a scornful and contemptible laugh. And afterwards the town constable, seizing the collar of my coat, dragged me along the streets to force me out of the place. But I sung as he led me on,—

“ Wicked men I’m not to fear,
Though they persecute me here ;
Though they may my body kill,
Yet my King’s on Zion’s hill.
I his soldier sure shall be,
Happy in eternity.”

It certainly was grievous to see our young friends from Childrey and elsewhere, with their plain neat bonnets crushed down on their heads, and their clothes torn. The brave men with white smock frocks had them so besmeared with mud and filth, that they required to be washed before wearing them again. Yet all was borne with christian patience, and a determination to perseverance.

At Farringdon, one Sabbath day, a very competent judge said, “ There were more than two sacks of potatoes lying in the street that had been thrown at the preacher.” I advised our friends to leave me, and get away ; many did so, as I wished to keep the mob back from them, and partly succeeded ; but one brother kept close to me, and he got sorely abused, as well as myself. Several of our friends picked some of the potatoes up, carried them home, and planted them, giving them the name of “ Farringdon Russells.” Some

years after I learned that a woman was so struck with the sight of the persecution that she started for heaven. She maintained a good course, and ultimately died happy in the Lord.

I thought if I tried Wantage at five o'clock of a working day morning, as I did other places, I might escape the fury of the mob ; and the Baptist minister told me that I should be welcome to stand at his chapel door, thinking that situation would be safer for me. I went accordingly, and had for once a peaceable hearing ; but as I was returning, a stout man cried out after me, " Eh ! my tight fellow, you were too soon for us this morning, but we will be ready for you the next time." However, by the next time, some sudden deaths, which some thought were judgments, caused an alarm, and I perceived a degree of dread had come over the people, insomuch that I was allowed to pass along the streets unmolested for a season, and hoped for more peaceable times.

At Littleworth a large savage dog attacked me. I stood calm and still, he only shook my umbrella ; so I felt humbly thankful for the preserving care of my heavenly Father from this danger.

It gave me some concern lest this station should become a *burden* or a *failure* ; the thought of either I could not bear, and determined to try to raise collections ; but the beginning was small. A poor woman at Kingston Lisle one evening went round with a tea saucer, first putting in a shilling herself, saying to the

people, "Well, friends, if the gentleman has a little matter of something, we ought to do a little for the cause;" and raised in all two shillings and twopence. This effort to me was cheering. This brave woman came next morning to the five o'clock meeting at Spars-holt, two miles, where I preached in the open air to the people before going to their labour; and there she was minded again to make a collection. But this did not seem to me to be the best way, so I hindered it there; but during the summer I made collections in all the other places, and saw to the class contributions where we had formed societies.

On my reaching Shefford the Saturday before September Quarter-day, and on Mr. Ride's inquiring about my money matters, he was gladly surprised when I informed him that I had enough to pay our way. Then he asked about the appointments of the next day. I replied, "All is right on the side I have left, and the other preachers are to be in their work." "Nay," he said; "Susan is here, and says she has a bad knee." We felt at a loss for the moment to know how to act; then Mr. Ride suggested, "Try Gabriel Turton for his old jack; thou knowst he will do any thing for thee." And then he added, "I fear we shall be short in some places: couldst not manage to make a collection or two?" I said, "I'll see."

On Sunday, September the 9th, very early, I set out on horseback to go to Chilton-in-the-Vale, ten miles, and left old Jack to feed on the downs; then set out

on foot to Harwell, preached, and made a collection of ten shillings; then to Hagbourn Cross, and after preaching, made another collection, and got ten shillings and sixpence; then preached at South Moreton, and by this time I had a great company of people who had come from other places. On reaching North Moreton, I received a letter signed by the clergyman and churchwardens, informing me that I was not wanted any more there, as they had the gospel preached by an evangelical clergyman. I just put the letter into my pocket, stepped up on my stand, glad to see so many, and preached to a large congregation. I then told the people about the contents of the letter, and also said I intended to proceed; and I further informed them that as Quarter-day was to-morrow we would now have a collection. On this occasion we raised one pound. This was excellent. A very tall respectable man, when I had started, as I was now get a lift on Mr. Pope's donkey, handed me two shillings, saying, "Sir, one of these is for myself and the other is for my father." On returning to Chilton, and carrying with me the collections, amounting to between two and three pounds, mostly in coppers, and after having walked 'twenty miles and preached four times, I was glad again to mount the beast, as he was now well prepared by a day's feeding to carry me home to Shefford. But my weariness made me sleepless.

Next day all was in comfort, and the business amicably settled, with forty increase, and an advance in every department of the work. On the next morn-

ing, who should come in while we were at family prayer but our venerable father in the gospel, the Rev. Hugh Bourne. I most gladly hailed him, and introduced him to those who did not know him, though they had heard and read of him so much. He stayed with us several days, and preached with good success round the neighbourhood ; after which I got a conveyance, and took him to within seven miles of Salisbury, on the Winchester road. I was much interested with a circumstance which happened. As we were passing a large flock of sheep feeding, we saw a number had got over the hedge bank, and sidled round the road, and gone into the new turnip ground. At this, a dog started up, then looked round, and without any one bidding him, he ran past the strayed sheep, and brought them round the hurdle point, and drove them into the flock again ; then he went and laid down in the same place. This astonished me, as I had never seen anything like it before.

Mr. Bourne's conversation was truly instructive about former times, and especially on the itinerancy, saying, " God never intended otherwise than to have men set apart for the work of the ministry ; as people in business had not time to see after church affairs, they being so much engaged in their secular employment, they could be great helpers in their own sphere." He especially referred to the Independent Methodists of different places, who professed to preach " without hire or reward ;" but he added, " Such could not be

consistent, if even they took a cup of tea or meal of dry bread at other people's cost ; for that was part hire in its way as much as a preacher's salary." We prayed at parting, and I returned with redoubled resolution to my station in the vale ; and was glad that in some measure persecution began to abate, and the way to open for good.

At North Moreton, an old malthouse was lent me for preaching in ; and there one night I sold twenty-six plans, at twopence each, while I was singing the hymn on it, " Good night." This was a great help.

At Blewbury, the Independents had long ceased preaching in an old chapel, which was becoming dilapidated. They offered it me free of rent, and I got our friends to help me in cleaning it, and we enjoyed blessed seasons there, and good was done.

At Aston, a kind friend fitted up a barn for preaching in, and gave something weekly for its support ; and we saw a good work there, and a large class was formed. I was glad to see a prospect of good at West Hagbourne and Didcot, where several shewed us kindness, and souls were saved.

Mr. William Leaker requiring time to go to see his friends, Mr. Ride said, " I fear for the Hampshire side, unless one of us go on that part while he is away." I consented to go, and laboured there four weeks, during which time I saw thirty precious souls converted and join society. I felt solemn as I entered Stockbridge, which was near one of the places, as I

had seen that town *in a dream* two years before, but had not time to give them a service ; and, indeed, it was not then opened.

While on this round I became acquainted with a young man, a shoemaker, who professed to be an infidel, and he having one night to go to Barton Stacy, where I was planned to preach, desired my company back to Sutton Scotney ; and on our return I introduced religion, and he his infidelity. But passing some very large trees near a graveyard, I suddenly stopped, and he also stood still. I touched him on the shoulder, and said, "How would you like to be here alone?" He replied, "Sir, my philosophy cannot account for my timidity ; but I durst not be here alone, and that is the reason of getting your company this dark night, to pass this graveyard and this lonely road." Then I said, "Infidelity will not do to die with." But I fear there was but little impression made ; yet he invited me to breakfast with him the next morning, and I went and prayed with him and the family where he lived. But oh ! what a difference was this compared with the following Sabbath morning, at the seven o'clock prayer meeting, when a convicted one cried out while I was singing—

" Break the tempter's fatal power,
Turn the stony heart to flesh,
And begin in this good hour
To revive thy work afresh."

Liberty was proclaimed, and we sung—

“ Hosannah ! Glory to the bleeding Lamb ! ”

I felt a great desire to open a mission in the New Forest, as it was now getting more inhabited. But had to return, and on my way calling to see my old friends in the first missioned places in this county, and so over to Newbury ; and I hastened back to Farringdon or the Vale mission, and I spent what time I could on the Shefford part of our circuit during the next few weeks.

At March Quarter-day we had a great attendance. We fixed for two lines of new mission ground. Bros. G. Wallis and W. Wilshire were appointed to open Andover, and other new places. From the first of our going into Hampshire we had a great desire to mission that town. But our two excellent brethren paid dearly for it ; they were sadly abused, and their lives were jeopardised. Yet they succeeded ; and years afterwards I felt very thankful to see Mr. Wallis here in a very good chapel that had been built, and all was tolerably peaceable, as persecution had somewhat ceased.

I had been to Wallingford, and felt determined to make that my next stand point for mission ground. But ere the time came, I was wishful to see my parents again. This was my second visit home during the nearly four years of my missionary enterprize.

And as Elizabeth Smith and I had corresponded a year and a half with the intention of marriage, (she was now travelling in Darlaston circuit), I wrote accord-

ingly, and we arranged that on my return we would fulfil this most important engagement. So I went on my journey, calling at Newcastle, in Tunstall circuit. I heard of Bro. Thomas Jackson as one likely to be able to travel ; and after some conversation with him, I directed him to get ready to return with me.

After visiting my friends, and preaching at Middlewich and Manchester, I returned to Darlaston, where Elizabeth was in her appointments, and I preached for her on Friday night. Saturday, I went to Birmingham. On Sunday, Mr. Haynes drove me to Stratford-on-Avon, twenty-two miles, in his conveyance, to open their place of worship. We had a good day. Then we returned the same evening, and next morning early, it being Easter Monday, I walked nine miles to meet Elizabeth, and we were married at Tipton ; and in the afternoon attended our Dudley lovefeast, where I gave them an account of our labours and success in the south, and preached at night for my wife, and again the next night at Walsall.

I spoke to Messrs. David Bowen and John Wilshire about their getting another preacher as soon as they could, and they kindly promised me that they would do so. I left my wife in her appointments, and as Bro. Jackson had promised me to be in Birmingham, we there met and went to our station. We called at Stratford-on-Avon, then by the horse-run we came to Moreton, and on ascending to Stow-on-the-Wold, having a fine view many miles in the distance to White Horse Hill, my young friend, with surprise, inquired, "Must we go

to yonder mountain?" I replied, "Yes, brother, and to hills beyond." So we went forward, and by Saturday reached Shefford. I had sent Mr. Ride intelligence of my marriage, and of the new preacher. All was thought to be rapid work. But now though the Quarter-day had affectionately requested me to stay as the leading missionary, which position I had held all through their station, being married, Mr. Ride thought I had better remove, and spoke to me about it. I left the affair with him and the District Meeting. So I was stationed to Birmingham; but at the adjourned Quarter-day there was an agitation, as the friends wanted me to remain.

However, I pushed to my new scene of labour. My ground was disputed; but I persevered. And dreading meeting with the same kind of ill-usage as I had endured at Wantage and elsewhere, I got my friends at the different country places to meet me; and on our arrival we fixed to stand in St. Leonard's Square. I set my back against the pump, and my friends formed a phalanx round me while I preached; and blessed be God, the word, like a shot, entered the heart of one of the worst men in those parts. And *now*, upon reflection, I reckon this something like my friend Mr. Cummins spiking the two great Russian guns in the Redan, at Sebastopol. The man who was awakened had not been in a place of worship for years; but he went home and told his wife what he had seen and heard, and then added, "I shall go to chapel, and you go

after dinner." His going caused a great consternation, as many wondered to see him at a place of worship, and others besides him were brought under deep convictions, and in three weeks I saw a happy turn of affairs, by numbers being brought to the Lord, and I formed a class of twenty members. Here I crossed the river Thames into Oxfordshire, where I missioned a number of places, and the Lord gave his blessing with the word, for which I felt humbly thankful.

By the middle of May, Elizabeth came, but rather unexpectedly as to the time of her coming. She was three days before she could find me, as I was away missioning new places. However, the Aston friends advised her to stay there, saying, "Mr. Russell will be sure to be at Wallingford on Sunday morning." And when they were half way across the meadows I saw the company as I was coming with another company making to the same point of the pathway. The well-known attire convinced me at once that my wife was there, and we had a gladsome meeting. That day we held five powerful services, and walked nearly twenty miles, numbers accompanying us, and all was peaceable, except the constable at Dorchester, and he annoyed us a great deal, and was about to pull Elizabeth down while she was preaching; but a Baptist gentleman said, "Let him touch the lady, if he dare, and I will make it cost him dearly." At this he was terrified, and retired. In years afterwards this officer came to me where I had been preaching, and weeping, said, "I grieved after

giving you molestation on your first coming to our village ; but I am now converted, and we are doing well at Dorchester, and have built a chapel."

Mr. and Mrs. Webb, with their family, showed us great kindness while in that part, as did other newly raised up friends who had received good.

I was truly thankful at June Quarter-day to report £5 8s. 8d. income, and nearly fifty precious souls joined to society, all out of the world.

Mrs. Ride desired me to take for my text at my farewell sermon, Gen. xxxii. 10., "I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth which thou hast showed unto thy servant ; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan ; and now I am become two bands.." And I could feelingly sing—

" O ! the fathomless love that has deign'd to approve
And prosper the work of my hands !
With my pastoral crook I went over the brook,
And behold I am spread into bands !"

The service was very solemn at our parting. We had a blessed increase this quarter. I had spent what time I could on the circuit from March to June, besides opening the Wallingford mission. All had gone well, for which we were truly thankful.

The circuit now numbered altogether nearly thirteen hundred members, and was able to support fifteen ministers !

After paying all the salaries and incidental expenses there was thirty-five pounds seven shillings and one penny to spare. To God be all the glory !

It was not likely that so mighty a work could be carried on and so great a foundation be laid for a further extent of labours, without oppositions and great trials, and indeed our cups of trouble, at times, were full to the brim ; but by perseverance we saw the Lord's hand for good, and this became more visible afterwards. For the work extended, and Shefford circuit led out in three directions, and became very successful courses.

PART X.

First.—Bradfield side opened out into Reading circuit, and Mr. Ride went to reside there, and stayed upwards of seven years. And that circuit has been made a blessing to other parts, besides taking up High Wycombe circuit and other stations ; and ultimately, by its missions, assisted in the formation of the General Missionary organisation, when Mr. Ride removed to London ; and Bro. John Guy saw much good done at Baldock, which is now a circuit in Hertfordshire.

Secondly.—The Hampshire mission opened out a good course of labours, which led to Mitcheldever (now Basingstoke) and Winchester, (where Bros. Ride and Bishop were imprisoned for preaching in the open-air at Mitcheldever), Andover, and its New Forest mission, where Bro. Maylard laboured with Mr. Brewer and others, and succeeded well ; and Andover took to Southampton

mission, and ultimately made the whole into a circuit. Thus four powerful circuits are formed in Hampshire.

Thirdly.—Farringdon mission opened at a time of great trials and severe persecutions, yet success attended those labours; afterwards Bro. Heys had it made into a circuit, and saw many saved. My way opened to Wallingford, where we had a glorious prospect; and hence Bros. Wiltshire and Peacefull, and Miss Woolford, of Childrey, opened a way into Buckinghamshire* by missioning Thame (now Chinnor circuit), and Mr. West opened Oxford, from Wallingford. The Rev. I. Hedges, now of Leeds District, suffered much, and was a blessing in those parts. Shefford circuit also sent Brothers Price and Jefferies to Aylesbury; and Mr. Waite opened the way to Stanbridge, near Dunstable, and the neighbourhood, and saw much good done. Bros. Samuel Turner and Henry Higginson missioned Luton, and Bro. Higginson amidst much opposition preached at St. Albans; and from these labours our brethren opened Leighton Buzzard in Bedfordshire. Thus Shefford circuit has been very successful, and made good progress in the Connexion. To God be all the glory. Amen and amen.

As to figures. The present number of members on the stations made from the above labours, is seven thousand four hundred and eighty-one, besides a clear paying in this year, 1868, to the General

* This county had long been on our minds, and much prayer had been made for those parts.

Mission Fund, of nearly three hundred pounds over and above paying their circuit ministers. Thus in mainly a thinly inhabited part of the nation, and in the face of violent opposition, we maintained a successful course of missionary toil, which, instead of "coming to nothing in three, six, or twelve months," which some gave us for our continuance, has stood nearly forty years; and in some places large chapels have been built and well sustained, besides numbers of other chapels and schools for both Sabbath and week-day tuition. Numbers of labourers have been raised up, some of whom are gone to heaven, others are yet bravely holding on in the great work, while some have gone to replenish other churches, and have done credit to their pulpits.

Our camp meetings in Shefford circuit became very mighty; indeed the people were well disciplined to these heavenly exercises from our processional mission enterprises.

The UNION camp-meeting between Shefford and Brinkworth circuits, on Bishopstone Down, near Ash-down Park, (or the wood of famous notoriety that Mr. Ride spoke so extensively about) when he accompanied me over that Down in February, 1830. Of this I here give a written statement as taken from the Magazine. Bishopstone Down was in the midst of Shefford circuit for many miles round; but there was no village near for upwards of two miles. Yet in a circle of ten miles round we had some hundreds of pious people in church membership with us,

and these very diligently came forward with many others from more distant parts. Some scores of pious people came out of Brinkworth circuit, a distance of ten or fifteen miles.

Our Magazine of 1835, page 331, has the following account :—

“ It was truly delightful to see the friends between eight and nine o'clock in the morning, coming on foot, and in gigs, carts, and waggons, in every direction, singing the praises of the most high God. For some time we were employed in placing the vehicles, more than fifty in number, in the form of a crescent. This having been done, we placed the horses on the lee-side, and fixed the preaching stand in the centre, so that the congregation was half bound with a semi-circle of the vehicles and animals.

“ A little after nine o'clock in the morning we commenced with fervent prayer to Almighty God. A move went through the camp—faith rose, grace descended, and the feeling was great. The second sermon produced a very gracious effect ; but afterwards, during the forenoon, the powers of darkness were very heavy ; yet the first going out in companies for prayer was very powerful. The second going out seemed to open heaven. In one of the companies converting grace was poured out from on high like a flood. This company continued permanent, nearly to the close of the meeting ; and during the dinner hour they went on with their work.

“ When the time was come to renew generally the afternoon services, it was considered proper to suspend preaching altogether, for some time, for the praying had by this time become so powerful, and the influence so great, that the whole of this mighty assembly appeared more or less affected. Accordingly the preachers all set to work in making large rings in different directions amongst the vast multitude. These rings were made as large as possible, perhaps about sixty yards in circumference, that the mourners and praying people might not be crowded, and that order might be preserved by giving all an opportunity of seeing every movement.

“ This plan worked well, as it brought into operation so mighty a force of prayer, and gave an opportunity to bring the mourners together. In these rings the preachers kept walking round to preserve order, and exhorting the people ; as this prevented the rings from being broken.

“ And now the meeting presented a scene of all others the most delightful we ever beheld. More, it was thought, than four thousand persons were assembled together. Hundreds of pious people on their knees pouring out their souls to God in mighty prayer—scores of broken-hearted sinners crying to God for mercy. Bursts of praise from different companies when mourners were set at liberty. Gentlemen and ladies were on horseback, or seated in their gigs, watching us with eyes bathed in tears. O, what a shower of grace descended ! This work went on for

about two hours ; and then, after two short sermons, this glorious camp-meeting was concluded by singing, with uncovered heads,—

‘ Praise God from whom all blessings flow,’ &c.

“ From the time the converting work commenced till it stopped, which was about two hours, we judge we shall not exaggerate in the least in saying that more than FIFTY precious souls obtained a sense of God’s pardoning mercy, or were sanctified wholly. To God be everlasting praise. Amen, and Amen.

“ This camp-meeting produced a blessed quickening in both circuits.

“ J. RIDE and S. WEST.”

N. B. The above glorious service was held a year after I left Shefford circuit ; but I deemed it well to insert the account in these records. I might further add, union camp-meetings, union lovefeasts, and sacramental services have been a general blessing.

Miss Eleanor Brown told me in London, as she was about to emigrate to Australia, in 1849, in the same ship with Messrs. Ride and Wiltshire, together with their wives and families, that she was with Mrs. Wells, of Shefford, during her last illness, and that she died in much peace. This caused me to feel great thankfulness to the Lord ; especially so as that lady rendered us good help in our early labours by her kindness, and also by building the Shefford house ; and though a proper rent was constantly paid to Mr. Wells for the house, yet it was a great benefit to us, for some hundreds

were converted in that place, and there was a home for us there when we had no other home.

At June removal of 1833, we found it no little trial to leave friends for whom we had ever felt the greatest affection ; however, the Conference had stationed me for Birmingham. Elizabeth made up our accounts, when I found, after disposing of many of my books, some of which were valuable, and that I had bought before leaving home for the itinerancy, and all was properly cleared up, that we had eight guineas to the good ; and with this sum we set off on foot for our new station. The first day we reached Childrey, and had a powerful meeting, when two souls found salvation ; during the next four days we reached Birmingham.

At this Conference, Tunstall district was divided, and my station continued in the parent district, and Brinkworth district had all our Berkshire side.

In years after, when Brinkworth district was divided, Mr. Ride was very anxious that the Berkshire side should form the southern district ; but we yielded for Bristol, as the Welsh and Cornish with other circuits lay most convenient for Bristol. And ultimately, Reading, with other circuits which had been missioned from Shefford circuit, aided in forming the London district. And also a general mission establishment was formed from the Reading circuit missions, Hull circuit missions, with missions of other circuits ; and the whole Connexion has aided in keeping this great course of labour going on ; and I have ever felt a

pleasure in pleading the cause of missions on our numerous platforms and in our pulpits. O that speedily "the earth may be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." Isa. xi. 9.

We soon found the Birmingham circuit was very extensive, including Coventry, Stratford-on-Avon, and Worcester, with intermediate towns and villages, which parts had been missioned from various sources; consequently a managing element was required. But my excellent colleagues, Adams, Pritchard, and Tharme, were brave youths, and all were useful, and especially in the Worcester chapel case, and the building of a new chapel in Birmingham. Yet there was a sore of some years standing, which now fully broke out, and caused a division of one hundred and forty members, which gave us great pain of mind. But the Lord helped us, and we had a good increase, besides paying our way, clearing off an old circuit debt, and raising much help for chapel purposes.

The Conference was held in Birmingham in 1834. The services were very great. Our friends processioned from five different parts of the town to the Bullring, where Mr. James Bourne preached a very powerful sermon on the new birth, and there was a gracious move. We were a great company, and thousands of people formed the procession as we went through New-street and on to the five ways. I felt very solemn as I gave out the hymns, and got our fathers and brethren to take their several parts in this mighty course of

labours. Some thought there were nearly twenty thousand people at the camp meeting ; and the love-feasts were very powerful ; much good was done. Such were the good impressions that our brethren made, that had the next year's Conference been held in Birmingham, and double the number of delegates attended, they would have been much better provided for.

Our second year, Mr. Richard Ward supplied the place of Mr. Adams ; and we called out Mr. Jones that we might better work the ground that we had, and open other new places. Having had an invitation to Warwick, I walked twenty miles there, and saw some good done ; but my mind was drawn to Leamington, a new town then rising up, which was not far beyond Warwick. We also succeeded in opening Stockgreen, Malvern, and other places. We made some provision for chapel building at Redditch and Quinton, which our friends carried out some years after. At the close of my second year on this extensive circuit (and I was requested to stay a third year), we had one hundred increase, though we had our full share of trials.

The District Meeting and Conference stationed me for Prees circuit, in Shropshire. There had been a great work of religion on that circuit for many years. Many pious people had been much in mission work, and they were deeply devoted to God. It was mostly in the neighbourhood of Hawkstone, whence the Rev.

Rowland Hill came: and I felt some desire to live among these pious people. But as the married minister's residence was at Lane End, now called Longton, the south part of the Staffordshire potteries, we repaired thither in July, 1835; and this being only about eight or nine miles from Bemersley, I was glad indeed to be so near our fathers in the Lord. We had Stoke, Skelton, or Lane Delph, Tean, Cheadle, Threapwoodhead, part of Hanley, and Moddershall, with another place also that Mr. Walford had missioned; and on the whole we had one hundred and fifty members. Miss Henshall was appointed with me, and stayed four months.

At September Quarterly Meeting, we were made into a separate circuit, and I commenced mission labours at Stone. But ah! alas! sickness overtook us; our lovely Julia died. This was a stroke. She was sixteen months old; and in four months after, my wife died. This again seemed an opening of wounds severe. She had for above six years been a great helper to me in religion; was the most strict, laborious, and upright of women. She would never allow any time to be wasted in walks of a needless order, and would very rarely allow me to walk with her alone before our marriage; and I seldom had her company except in the presence of others, and even that not very frequently. After our engagement, in August, 1831, and this was by the recommendation and influence of Mr. Ride, she resolved to leave the Shefford

circuit at the following Conference, that there should be no needless surmisings amongst the people. So she was stationed to Darlaston, in 1832, during which year her labours were much owned of the Lord, especially during the time of the cholera ; and in particular at Bilston, where eleven hundred died in a few weeks. But nothing daunted her in the work of the ministry, especially in street preaching and family visiting, and she was a comfort to many. I felt much struck with her earnestness one night, as she stood by me in the open air at Stratford-on-Avon, when a gang of strolling play-actors attacked me in the street as I was preaching. She looked up, and said, "Never mind them, dear ; thou hast endured many a worse conflict than this : the Lord will help ; preach on, and don't be dismayed." And even while the rebels beat her bonnet down on her head, and damaged her clothes, she patiently endured, and prayed at the conclusion, after the persecutors had gone away.

On our arrival in the Potteries, she commenced a new class, and was succeeding well with it in our residence. Many applications were made for her services in the neighbouring circuits. Thirteen applications were pending when sickness prevented even one more being fulfilled. For the benefit of her health, she contemplated a visit with her mother to Ludlow, her native place. They arrived by coach ; but alas ! this proved to be the last journey, and she even could not reach home, but stopped at Bro. John Graham's,

in Ludlow. Her anxiety had been very great for me, and her affection strong. She said, "If my husband knew I was so ill, he would walk night and day to be with me." I had serious dreams, but was just opening the Stafford mission. She felt much for me, and nearly her last words were, "I have had the assurance of heaven for the last seven years;" then said, "Loose him and let him go." But our friends thought she meant loose me and let me go. But I now think she meant the quotation, "Loose him." Thus, not many yards from where she was born, was converted, and began to preach, after labouring in the gospel in many counties she died, and there I buried her. A letter had been sent from Mr. Graham, but it was nearly a week on the road. I did not get it, but only heard of it; and at once I set off, walked to Shrewsbury, then took the night mail, and my first certainty of her death was by the watchman coming to the little group of passengers, at three o'clock in the morning, as we lighted from the coach, and on my asking for Old-street, he said, "Are you Mr. Russell?" I said, "Yes, sir." He was one of our members, and soon disclosed the sorrowful news. This was melancholy. She was about thirty years old. We had the funeral on the Monday; nearly two thousand attended, such was the love the people bore her. Thus was I deprived of child and wife in a few short weeks, which visitations were severe. But in a few days I returned to my labours, though with a nearly broken heart.

Mr. Growcott, of Longton, had told me of Mr. Benjamin Brown, of Newcastle-under-Lyme, who was likely to be useful. This excellent brother came, and was to me a comfort and a great helper. Leaving him on the Pottery side, I took to the new ground, and missioned Stone, Leigh, Eccleshall, Stafford, Rugeley, Great Heywood, Little Heywood, Bridgeford, and other places. The Rev. John Wedgwood came a few times, and was a blessing, but he felt his call to be elsewhere. Mr. Brown ardently yoked in the work; and at the recommendation of Mr. Britain, of Brierley Hill, I called out Miss Woodhouse to travel. She had not preached often; but took counsel, and became a good labourer, and the Lord was with us. At this time I was taken sick of fever, and was laid up six weeks; but as soon as I could I went to Bemersley, and remained till I was better. During this prostration of health, Mr. Goodwin took my appointments. Then, by opening Dividy Lane, near to Fordhays, where Mr. Bourne was born, and several other places, we soon had work enough for four preachers; and we moved on successfully, and saw much good done. The first lovefeast that I held in Stafford, I could only rely on one believer, who had to come several miles; but I knew there were several seeking mercy. After giving an account of my own conversion, I desired any one to speak; so the distant comer spoke. Then the thought struck me, shall all be at a standstill? and must I preach? But I waited a few minutes,

when a seeking penitent spoke, and found liberty while she was speaking, and she praised the Lord for delivering mercy; then another obtained peace in the same way, till five or six had found salvation. I then called on the sinners to speak, and a very strong man said, "I came through that door a vile rebel, and came to oppose and persecute; but I mean to turn to the Lord." Others too felt much. These things strengthened my hands in the work, and we closed the meeting with joy.

The District Meeting was held at Ludlow. And at the camp-meeting, while Mr. H. Bourne was preaching, a man dropped down as one shot in battle. The services were all very powerful, and much good was done.

The Sunday before the Conference of 1837, Mr. Brown assisted me to hold a large camp meeting at Stafford. The processioning was very powerful. The meeting was well attended, and generally the people behaved well. The word ran with power, and at night I left Mr. Brown holding a lovefeast, as I had to get to Manchester by the next day. I set out and walked seven miles, when I overtook an old travelling waggon, and for a penny a mile, at the rate of three miles an hour, got to Newcastle, where the man stopped to rest, but I went forward on foot to Manchester, and the next day to Sheffield, and was glad to meet many old friends. But the sorrowful tidings came of the death of Mr. George Taylor, one of the Dead Poll

Delegates. He was with us at the District Meeting at Ludlow. We had some very serious conversation about the work, especially about stations' sinking, which he said often was reported between March and July. I little thought that that would be our last interview. Here I renewed the friendship of Mr. John Reynard, of Leeds. We had only met once before, which was at the Tunstall Conference of 1828. But our affection continued, exchanging many a friendly letter, to just before he left mortality for life. Here Mr. Clowes again spoke to me about going to America.

But Manchester made application for me to go to Weymouth, in Dorsetshire, which station they had taken up from Sunderland.

Mr. Thomas Sugden laboured hard for me, and Tunstall district delegates laboured to keep me there, for Longton. The contest lasted over an hour, when Mr. Sugden said, "It is my conviction if Brother Russell is not stationed there, Manchester will give Weymouth up to the Connexion." This seemed to settle it, and I was appointed for Weymouth. The following is from the Magazine of 1838, page 152, "Sunday, June 18th—Preached a farewell sermon at Stafford* in the morning, and a farewell sermon at Levedale in the afternoon. I felt keenly to see the friends weep at parting : and more especially so—

* Stafford is now a distinct circuit ; Longton, with other places, are now in Hanley circuit ; Stoke is with Newcastle circuit ; and Tean, with other places, are joined to Ramsor circuit. Were all together, Hanley, or the South Staffordshire circuit, would be very powerful.

‘ While I ask in amaze, Who hath begotten me these ?
 And inquire from what quarter they came ;
 My full heart replies, They are born from the skies,
 And gives glory to God and the Lamb.’

“ It is now sixteen months since I first opened this part of the country ; and we have had powerful times on it, and many have been saved.

“ Stafford and its neighbourhood had been tried by all the surrounding circuits, but as often it had been given up ; but now I trust a foundation is laid for perpetuity. The entire circuit has had one hundred increase since we came to it two years ago.

“ Monday, June 19th, 1837.—I came to Birmingham, and found several standing firm in the truth, who were brought to the Lord in meetings we held here more than two years since. A number of friends accompanied me out of the town ; and, after singing a hymn, we kneeled down on the roadside, and while I prayed, the gushing tears rolled down the cheeks of these affectionate friends. I again found it hard work to bid them farewell. Two years before this, I and my wife, accompanied by our child, bade them adieu. But now I am sorrowfully alone, travelling to a strange part. Lord help me. Amen.”

Partly by coach and partly by walking, I went round by Reading, to see my old friends Mr. and Mrs. Ride, and I opened them a new place by preaching in the open air, and was told afterwards that from that service one soul started for heaven. Thence on to

Poole, where I saw Mr. Robert Langford, and preached for him on the quay to about three hundred peaceable hearers. Several wept much, and I had hope of a little boy and his mother getting some good.

The day following, which was Saturday, June 24th, we took boat across the bay, and I felt much as I looked on the ruins of Corfe Castle, which Mrs. Banks bravely defended with a few men against an invading army, two hundred years before; and I felt much inclined to preach there. We landed near Wareham, and I walked on twenty miles to Weymouth, my station for the coming year.

Sunday, 25th.—Preached at Weymouth three times: several wept much. My God, lay to thy helping hand.

During the following week, I visited Portisham and Sutton, and saw Mr. King (his colleague, Mr. McPherson, had gone away before I arrived). Mr. King gave me every direction for the mission; informing me where the regular places of preaching were, Weymouth, Bridport, Portisham, in each of which places there was a class, and Sutton with no society, and the members in these classes amounted to fifty-nine. I was very much pleased with Mr. King's kindness, but found it a very hard trial to follow my predecessors, and had some fear of not being able to keep the ground good after them.

And now being alone on the ground where previously two preachers had been stationed, and formerly three,

I felt the difficulty of my situation : Sutton being four miles N.E., Portisham eight miles, and Bridport twenty miles westwardly from Weymouth. I saw I had plenty to do. I was advised to give up Bridport, and was told Sutton would be no good ; and by giving it up also, I should only have two places. But this advice I could not follow. So I arranged my plan for Weymouth, Sunday ; Bridport, Tuesday ; Portisham, Wednesday ; Weymouth, Thursday ; Sutton, Friday ; and to visit at Weymouth on Saturday, and preach in the open-air.

Having Monday at liberty, I sought out another place ; and opened Loder. This place our preachers had formerly preached at once a fortnight, but it had been given up. I visited it from door to door, and not in vain, for one young man who was ill in a loft was brought to the Lord while I was visiting him, and soon after he died happy.

But this new method, (namely, the ministerial family visiting), caused many things to be said. One woman, in coming from the market, said, "The gentleman is either a god or a devil, for he came into my house and talked about the Lord, and then kneeled down among all the dirt, and prayed with me."

This method excited the attention of some people at Nettlecomb, and induced them to come over to Loder to hear me preach. They received good, and I made an appointment to go and preach there.

I opened Nettlecomb at nine o'clock on a working

day morning ; and nearly all in the house wept. I formed a class, and appointed for Fridays at Nettlecomb.

One night, as I was preaching at this place, several got powerfully awakened ; one of whom was Mrs. Simon Hansford, who stood outside the door during the sermon. She was cut to the heart, and went home weeping—sorely distressed. But early one morning she found peace. She states that she saw a beam of light, then a body of light, then like clouds revolving before her eyes ; and she received the assurance that her sins were forgiven : then she praised God aloud. Some time after, as some of our members were conversing in her house, her husband obtained pardon also. Others were awakened, and some found salvation, who are still holding on their way.

From this place the way opened to Hook. At Bridport I preached to several hundreds at times in the street, and saw a little good done. Here we had to contend with difficulties, but several joined society.

At Portisham, visited about twenty families each week. In one house was Elias Godding lying ill ; and being invited I went to see him. I read out of the early notices of the life of Mr. Hugh Bourne, and continued reading until the glory rested. Being fully sensible of this, I kneeled down, and, while praying, Elias said, he saw a light as a shadow on me, and then it came to him, and all at once he felt, as he said, a great change ; his soul seemed overjoyed, and he

wished he could see his former companion to warn him from going to public-houses. His last words were, "Happy, happy!" He died in peace about fifteen days after his conversion, leaving a good testimony.

On the last two occasions of my being here we had cries for mercy, and several found peace; and we had an addition to the society.

Weymouth partook of the blessing in part. Here a young woman, Lucy Ann Thresher, was in a decline, and one day, when I went in from my appointments, Mrs. Thresher said, "Mr. Russell, there is no time to be lost. Lucy Ann is falling off from her food, and she is not saved; and she will not live long." I went into the drawing-room, and talked freely, and prayed with her several times. She began to weep, and ever after sought the Lord, until she obtained pardon. She said, "The Lord appeared to me and said, 'Thy sins which are many are all forgiven thee; and I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.'" Her last words were—"Happy—happy. Glory, glor, glo—gl—" the word failing on her lips.

I buried her, and had a solemn time in speaking over the grave, and, according to her request, I preached her funeral sermon, and had a great congregation. Many wept, and one started for heaven. Brother Thresher said, "I have proved the saying of the Lord true, 'A cup of cold water shall not lose its reward.'" At Weymouth, during the summer months, I, on a Sabbath, generally preached once in the open-air, be-

sides three times in the room, and attending the Sunday-school, leading classes, holding prayer meetings, &c.

The last time I preached there in the street, it was by candle light, one week day evening, from "Remember Lot's wife." It was a solemn time. A very careless sinner got very much alarmed, and said, "What an end that woman came to!" The congregation and society increased. I held several lovefeasts; at each of which souls were converted. Every time I administered the sacrament good was done. Mondays, at four a.m., I generally started eighteen miles to Loder, and stopped on Bridport side four or five days, visiting and preaching daily.

Saturday, Jan. 6th, 1838.—Preached at Sutton, and commenced a class meeting. This week I walked eighty-four miles, preached to ten congregations, visited nearly one hundred families, and met about sixty people in class meetings.

To-day I received a letter from Mr. Hussey, of Swanage, pressing me to go there and open a mission.

Sunday, Jan. 7th—At Weymouth. Formed a Sunday evening class. Three joined.

Monday, 8th.—Visited at Weymouth, and preached. Led class, and three more joined.

The last fortnight I have joined eighteen members. We now stand more than ninety in society, in this mission, making about forty increase since I came to it.

Tuesday, 9th.—Set off for the Isle of Purbeck, so

called, though it is only a peninsula, and preached at Swanage. The next day I came back, round by several villages, twenty-seven miles: a bad road, over the cliffs, by the sea side, and I was ill of a violent cold.

Friday, Jan. 12th.—At Weymouth Missionary Meeting. Messrs Langford and Bartley helped me. Bro. Joseph Best, from Poole Circuit, came here to assist me on the mission. I was also under the necessity of hiring a local preacher.

Sunday, Jan. 21st.—I preached at Helston, a village near Swanage, in the morning; and at Swanage afternoon and night. I formed a society of seven members at Swanage, and we had a good time.

Monday, Jan. 22nd.—Visited Corfe Castle and Worth, and preached at night at Langton. So here is now one preacher's work in Purbeck. But having slept in a bed that had not been lain in for nearly two years, though I took the precaution of sleeping in my clothes, I was very ill the next day. I rose at four a.m., but it was with difficulty I walked twenty-one miles, and prayed with a few families.

Wednesday, Jan. 23rd.—Much better in health, and to-morrow, God-willing, I purpose to comply with repeated invitations to open a mission in the Island of Portland.

Accordingly, on the following day, I went through all the villages there, and preached at night with good liberty. Then I went a second time; and on my third

visit, as I went down to the Ferry to get a boat, a man said, "Are you the Methodist preacher?" I answered, "Yes." He then struck me a severe blow over my right shoulder with his walking stick, and held me fast. I was glad to get away when he loosed his hold. I pray God may save him.

During this winter we had much snow. One Saturday, as Brother Best came home, he said, "Mr. Russell, you will not be able to go to the West, as the snow is so deep." I replied "I will be at Hook to-morrow morning if it is drifted to the neck." So when we had settled our affairs I set off for Loder though the storm was severe. It took me seven hours to walk eighteen miles, and I often found the snow several feet deep ; but I got in safely by eight o'clock. It took us a quarter of an hour to pull my boots off, and next morning longer to get them on again. The hedges were often lost to view in consequence of the drifts of snow ; but happily a sharp frost made it hard, and I got to Hook, nearly six miles, by ten o'clock. Preached and formed a class ; then returned to Powerstock, and preached at two o'clock, and at Bridport at six.

During the week, I stayed on that side until Friday, taking my regular work every day ; but on my return for Portisham, such was the frost over the country, that the snow was like a glaze of ice, and I had hard work to keep my feet. But in five hours I walked ten miles ; and what with the sleet at times, then sharp frost, my umbrella was unshuttable, and my top-coat

like a double board round me. I had to climb over the snowdrifts, which had covered the hedges, which were many feet high ; but got to Portisham in time for the meeting, and preached from "Pray ye that your flight be not in the winter" (Matt. xxiv. 20), and had a solemn time ; and I got a nice home to sleep at, which was a comfort ; and they had kindly got my clothes dried by the next morning. This was better than either the public-house or doctor's shop loft. Next day, I got well home to Weymouth : praise the Lord.

Thus we went on through the winter, and pursued our labours with good success, especially amongst the pottery-clay getters at Corfe Castle, and amongst the quarriers in other parts of Purbeck.

Feeling fearful of burdening our friends at Manchester, we took every precaution to make the best we could of our littles. A friend having made me a present a penny bun one Monday morning, I kept it in my pocket till Saturday, thinking every meal time I should want it by the next time, so I kept my morsel ; but I was glad to eat it on my journey twenty miles home at the end of the week, and I got a drink of water for my beverage. Fearing to get lodgings on hire, I used to take every precaution to get a bed when I could, so as not to incur expense ; but sometimes this was dangerous. In one place I slept with an aged man who seemed nearly covered with something like leprosy. When I have thought of this since, I have often shud-

dered at the danger I was in, but I ever felt thankful to the Lord for his preserving care.

Saturday, May 5th.—In addition to visiting and praying with a number of families, I walked twenty-three miles to Corfe Castle, a small town in the Isle of Purbeck, where several weeks before I had formed a class ; and was happy to find the work going on. Our friends here had been in the habit, before their conversion to God, of spending some time most Saturday nights in public-houses ; but now they met for prayer. I joined them gladly, but refused to lead the meeting, because I wished them to do it. They commenced ; and O how glad I was to hear these young converts. I gave them an exhortation. We had a blessed time. Praise God ; he made me forget all my toil. When I visited this place in January, 1838, all was dark. But the people say since the Primitive Methodist missionaries have been in the habit of preaching to the men in the clay pits, and in the streets of Corfe Castle, a great change for the better has taken place ; as now people can pass unmolested along the road. We have now seventeen members, and other churches have reaped the fruits of our labours by additions to their society.

Sunday, May 6th.—At seven I attended the Corfe Castle prayer-meeting. At nine, preached at Aston in the open air. After which I took the friends out, in praying companies, and they were pleased to have a little camp-meeting. At eleven, opened a new place. At two, I preached at Kimmeridge, in the open air.

At four, on the market cross, in Corfe castle, to about five hundred hearers. Two were awakened. At seven I hastened on and preached at Swanage, and there led the lovefeast. The speaking was powerful and pointed : one young man said, "The Lord pardoned my sins to-night while Mr. Russell was preaching." This was cheering, as I was labouring under a cloud. Five persons spoke of having been awakened under a sermon I preached here three months before. That sermon was delivered under a heavy cloud, and through a severe conflict. This was the first lovefeast we held here. and we had a powerful prayer meeting at the close. To-day, I walked twenty miles, and held nine meetings ; saw several vile characters awakened, and one, if not more, converted. I need not say I was much tired. Lord help me. Amen.

Monday, 7th.—Visited twenty families and preached at Worth ; led class, and one joined.

Tuesday, 8th.—Visited a number of families and preached in the open air at Swanage ; then met the class, and formed them in two praying companies. Most of these (fourteen in all) have been lately brought to God, yet they can hold prayer meetings and give exhortations in the houses at Worth and Acton, and on Carrington Common, and good has been done by them. O Lord, bless them in their labours. Amen.

Wednesday, 9th.—Visited a new place. O for a mighty outpouring of the Spirit in this country.

Thursday, 10th—At Corfe Castle. Preached in the

dinner hour at the clay pits, while the men were eating their food. In the evening I preached at the Market Cross. Led class, and four joined.

Friday, 11th.—Preached in the dinner hour at the upper clay pits. At night opened Bushey, a new place. Our travelling preachers can supply it once a fortnight, on Fridays; and the Corfe Castle members can hold prayer-meetings on the alternate Fridays.

Saturday, May 12th.—This was the day I dreaded, because it was Corfe Castle fair; and I feared the members losing ground. I visited hard all day. A meeting was appointed, but scarce any were expected to attend, yet the house was filled. I took a chair and said, "All that were afraid to go out might stop in the house." I preached to about two hundred peaceable hearers; and read a piece out of the Magazine, which had a good effect, and I got another subscriber. Our friends afterwards held a prayer-meeting. One man was so awakened under the sermon that he could scarcely sleep. He has since joined us.

We held a camp-meeting of nearly two thousand people in Purbeck, with very good effect. On the whole through this peninsula we had a general awakening, and many were converted to God. A very pious man, nearly eighty years of age, joined us, who could read small print without glasses, and he often preached. He said, "there never was so great a work of religion in Purbeck before. In this revival the Holy Spirit took hold of the curate of Corfe Castle,

and a young man professed to get good under his ministry, which was a matter of joy to this clergyman, and he often spoke of it gladly, which caused James Morris to say, "Our parson is as proud of this single convert as a hen is with one chick."

The beautiful Congregational church became well attended ; and their minister contributed ten shillings towards our mission, which manifested a spirit of christian love. Everything steadily moved on, and labourers began to rise ; but at the end of two years, we had to remove. Bros. Best and Holloway went to Brinkworth, and Bro. Rolls to Motcombe. I felt sorrowful at leaving this station, as the chapel matters were moving, but not sufficiently settled ; yet I had a hope of their success. We had a great missionary meeting in Bridport town hall, to which Mr. Paddison came twenty miles gratuitously to help us. This took well, and the way was opening for a good course of collecting for the chapels. Messrs. Hansford, Cosens, and others were becoming helpers.

But I was now stationed to Stroudwater, and I resolved, after above three years' widowhood, again to marry ; and Elizabeth Duke, who had obtained salvation at our services in Weymouth, and had been a very steady active member with us for nearly two years, and was likely to be useful ; so we were married the same day with Mr. and Mrs. Bartlet, and we all came the same day to Abbey Milton.

PART XI.

AFTER a course of labour for Manchester circuit in the Weymouth mission of two years and two weeks, I removed to my new station, and found on our arrival at Stroudwater a very beautiful locality, very pleasing to the eye ; and I hardly knew which to admire most, Purbeck, on its west end looking eastward—

“ Far in the windings of its wooded vale ;”

or Litton hill, looking westward over Loder and Bridport, and its numerous high lands and scattered villages ; or Eversham vale, looking towards the Severn, or Glossop vale, near Manchester ; or this beautifully picturesque locality, hills covered with fir groves, and various other forest trees ; vales sending out their meandering streams forming the river Frome at the foot of Stroud, then for miles down being fed with other streamlets, and at length assisting to swell the gigantic Severn.

But I soon found these great beauties of nature and profitable waters for dying cloths and turning the numerous wheels of the factories had a drawback. The working people were very poor. The hand-loom broad-cloth weaving had given place to machinery, so that now in many cases women had to go to the mills, and men to stop at home to mind their children. Many a family had to subsist on six or seven shillings a week, and many had to walk several miles, every night and

morning to secure these small wages ; one of our friends, near her confinement, came home, and that night the child was born ; and for fear of losing her employment she went to the mill the next morning, to keep her place of work, and thus still secure a living for her family. But when the master learned the case he sent the carriage to take her home, and assured her that her place should not be lost.

The loss of work had caused many to remove to Yorkshire and other parts, and these things had caused a declension in the once flourishing religious societies. But a few years before my station there, Mr. James Baker, an active local preacher in Brinkworth circuit, living on the borders of our Berkshire mission, was determined to make an effort for further usefulness, and offered himself to go out as a regular minister on single man's pay, and he missioned Highworth, and went with Mr. S. Turner to Chippenham and other places. He had been stationed at Stroud, and saw a revival amongst some young people ; this caused a need of a larger place of worship, so they commenced a chapel at Stroud ; they also built at Roundwick another chapel, but these both became a burden. Mr. Edward Foizey had hard work in getting pews and seats after he came to the station ; but knowing joinering, he preached at night and wrought by day ; yet on my arrival, the debts were more than could be borne. I kept clearing out these outstanding accounts until all we had was gone. There being a bill in the bank of

twenty pounds for Roundwick, which was due, and the bankers would not renew it unless the trustees would pay off costs and sink it one pound, all of us put together could not raise this sum ; but I went to Mr. Pegler, the broker, and offered him my watch in pledge for the sum required, telling him what it was for. I saw a tear start in his eye, and he said, " Sir, I have heard you preaching in the streets, and believe you will do much good. Put your watch in your pocket : but I will lend you the pound without interest ; and only keep your payments good, then never want a pound." This was a deliverance ; and by ardent perseverance I succeeded better than I expected. Mr. Hawkins, the solicitor, put me in a better way of collecting, and advised me in many particulars, and showed us kindness.

The house wanted replenishing in its furniture ; on naming it to Mr. Bucknal, the printer, he said, " My uncle, Mr. Clissold, should know of this." So we went to Field Place, and were kindly helped. This was encouraging.

My way opened step by step. and through the Lord's goodness we saw the chapel matters improved. The work moved, and several were saved. At Walls Quarry, Bros. Hill and Brinkworth got revived ; and at a tea-meeting several were saved. The congregation so increased, that they had to have a gallery put into the chapel.

Custom Scrubbs was two miles from any place of

worship, and ours was the only preaching place in the hamlet. Seeing the way somewhat open, I applied to Mr. Hawkins for his influence, and he took me to Mr. Hobson, who had some influence with Mr. N. Marling, and this gentleman gave us land at Scrubbs, in a very eligible situation, and to be seen miles away. We amalgamated Scrubbs' effort with the old debts of Stroud and Roundwick, and through mercy got out of our difficulties, for gentlemen often would give for one who would not help for the others.

Being straightened for ten pounds for Roundwick, I one morning set out early, and coming to the beautiful lofty hill of the residence of Joseph Partridge, Esq., the servant announced my name; Mrs. Partridge came to the door, and the first question was, 'Sir, have you had your breakfast?' This was replied to, and the viands were soon got ready in the best parlour. After which, we had prayer, when my business was inquired into. I then opened my case, and the good lady said, "Leave your book, Sir, with me, and I will see what I can do; and you go home, as you seem very weary and careworn." This was a very gracious act, and, in a few days, with all items regularly entered from one shilling to five shillings, &c., the sum was raised within £3. Mr. Partridge's book-keeper then gave one pound, and the gentlemen gave the other two, so that matter was settled; and it settled ten pounds more. Thus step by step we moved on, clearing off different debts. I went twenty miles to request Mr. Hugh Bourne to visit our station. He kindly came,

and wrote in the Magazine, page 77, 1841,—“ I had been greatly pressed to come to Stroud to preach their anniversary sermons, our friends there being in a great strait to raise a sum of money to liquidate an outstanding debt pertaining to that chapel. * * * During the year nearly all the chapels have been raised out of their embarrassments, and the circuit is nearly on its feet. This was happy news to me, as I went thither expecting to meet with nothing but distress.

“ Thursday, Sept. 24th, 1840.—I preached one of the anniversary sermons, and Friday at Walls Quarry.

“ Saturday, Sept. 26th.—I and Brother Thomas Russell, the superintendent preacher, waited upon S. Clissold, Esq., and he kindly presented us with five pounds towards the present difficulty. For this we felt thankful both to God and him.

“ Sunday, Sept. 27th.—I had to preach all the three sermons. By the mercy of God, the collections, together with Squire Clissold’s kind gift, fully released our friends out of this difficulty, and something more.”

That brave gentleman aided us at times in all our troubles. Not forgetting the times of the birth of our two children, Elizabeth and Hannah.

Fearing that he might be led in his sympathy to burden himself, one morning, when Mr. Browning brought me five pounds for Scrubbs, I asked, knowing there was a family at Field Place, “ Does Mr. Clissold do too much ? ” “ Sir,” said the steward, “ don’t you trouble about that ; but take and dispose of as he directs all that he gives you, for he has laid by four

thousand pounds for charitable purposes; and his family are well provided for."

The Rev. John Burder, with the Rev. Mr. Griffith, Congregationalist, Rev. Mr. Jones, of Mr. Whitefield's Rodbrogh Tabernacle, and the Revs. Newman, Yates, Parsons, and other ministers showed us kindness. But most of these have since gone to their rest. The Revs. Joseph Marsh and John Stevens, Wesleyans, felt a sympathy, for they knew the state of the poor, and of my difficulties. The former of these two told me "he preached at the FIRST Mow Camp-meeting."

After three years labour I left this circuit with upwards of twenty per cent. increase, and felt as if I should have liked to stay longer. All were so agreeable, and though poor, were kind.

Mrs. Whitfield, one of our members, being asked by an evangelical clergyman, what place of worship she attended, said, "The Primitive Methodists." The clergyman then said, "O that is not the way." "Well, Sir," asked the woman, "will you tell me which is the way?" He answered, "The church is the way." She then said, "Sir, I beg to differ from you, for the Lord said, 'I am the way.'"

It was often a great trial for our members to be exercised in this way amidst their poverty. Yet, through mercy, they bore up, and we enlarged our borders by opening Cam and Bevington, near Dursley and Berkley as I thought there was a prospect of good there.

At the Conference of 1842, I was stationed for Bristol, which was a greatly populated part, and might be called the city of the West. There seemed to be a prospect for good at a camp-meeting at Brandon Hill. Nearly one thousand people attended, and behaved well. I was much struck with the fine view from this eminence, about two hundred feet above the river Avon, on which ships float on its surface. The view is several miles over the city, and to Kingswood Hill. I wondered that no more could be done than was, as there were upwards of two hundred thousand inhabitants. Yet there had been some sterling good accomplished. Bros. West, Turner, Harvey, and Coxhead were remembered in affection. I was much pleased with Mr. W. Tanner and his street meetings. There were some very pious people there. My colleague, the Rev. H. Yeates, was a pious excellent young man. We spent our time together in comfort, and saw some good done. We had an increase of upwards of thirty, and I believe there was a prospect of mission labour at Thornbury and its locality. Had I stayed I believe Mr. Clissold, of Stroud, would have helped us in getting a chapel, which was what we wanted, as he promised me to that effect. Bro. C. T. Harris has since built a good chapel in the Dings, near the old market, in Bristol. They have also made Kingswood into a separate station. The Lord give them a great course of usefulness and prosperity, and bless them more abundantly. Amen.

From Bristol I removed at the Conference of 1843 to St. Austell, in Cornwall. Calling at Redruth, we stayed at a large camp-meeting, with Mr. Preston. He had often helped me at Stroud, and I was glad to assist him now.

On our arrival at St. Austell, I found things in good order, as far as Brothers Thos. Jackson and John Excell could leave them. These brethren laboured in Berkshire successfully, and I felt a great regard for them. They did much good there.

My colleague now was Mr. W. Axton, the author of the hymn—"I'd be a missionary." I should have been better pleased had the different editors of the many periodicals that have published this hymn said, "A Primitive Methodist Minister composed it." But it has done good, and we will rejoice for this. I had learned something of Cornwall from a visit to their missionary-meetings, at St. Ives, when Brother Samuel Wiltshire travelled there and Brothers Driffield and Cummins were at Rudruth.

We had not long been at St. Austell before a call from Stroud caused me to return there for some weeks. We agreed for Mr. Axton to go to that station; and now necessity was on us to get another preacher, who did well for some time. Bros. Preston, of Redruth, and Sharman and Foizey, of St. Ives, often desired him to go to those stations. Mr. Causer came to our station at the change. We had a great move, and much good was done. But it was a time of trial, as the mining

business went down, and numbers of our friends removed to other parts in search of employment, and so were beyond reach. But those who went to Liskeard, twenty miles off, we were able to go to, and we formed a society in that town ; and there was a prospect of good. Now, if we could have had a missionary for that part I believe we might have extended our labours to Loo and along the coast successfully. Instead of this, however, Bro. Causer had to go to Motcombe to supply Mr. Smith's place, and I was left alone at St. Austell, which was then a circuit thirty miles long, and ten miles wide. This caused excessive travelling. I often had to walk many miles after preaching at night ; and was frequently coming home as the miners were going to work at four or five in the morning. It was certainly no little work to walk nearly twenty miles home from Liskeard to St. Austell, after preaching at night, to be ready to go forward to my appointment the next day.

Our chapel matters, too, were rather a difficulty. The Tregreham chapel was so dilapidated that even animals of the common could go through the gate and door and lie down in the pews. However, I bought it, and formed a trust, and put it into repair, and it once more belonged to the Connexion. We reduced the entire debt of this chapel to £6 10s. 2d. This is a debt still owing, which I should be glad to see paid.

Cornwall has been much noted for Methodism. The Bible Christians have a powerful interest, and have

been a great blessing. I had the honour of once or twice having visits from Mr. O'Bryan, the founder. He was a good man. I ever felt a great respect for him and them. The Wesleyan Association, (now Free Church Methodists,) and the New Connexion and Wesleyans had some of their first-class ministers in Cornwall. I calculated that there were as many Methodist members of society as would equal one-third of the grown population of the county. And there were many very pious people.

The revivals were at times very powerful ; but I used to think they were periodical,—some coming every seven years, some every five years, and others every three years. But as often as the people looked for a revival, and prayed for it, they obtained one. Then why not have the revival continually ! Only that revivals require excessive labours. This shows the necessity of complying with our Lord's command, Luke x. 2 : "Pray ye the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." Excessive toil will wear the body down. But Rev. xiv. 13, says—"Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth : yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours, and their works do follow them." So that here is rest fully promised.

We had at St. Austell the best and most systematic order of "Christian union" of any I had ever seen. The Rev. James Cope, Congregationalist, was the president on nearly all occasions ; and he was worthy :

for a more generous and kind good man I scarcely ever met with. The Messrs Drew, sons of Mr. Samuel Drew, who wrote the "Essay on the Soul," took an active part in this union.

There were six dissenting places of worship, four of the Methodist order, a Baptist, and an Independent. The system was, First, a union prayer meeting once a month—this service came in regular order at all the six chapels. Second, sacrament once a quarter alternately. Third, exchange of pulpits half-yearly. And Fourth, a meeting for conference at some friend's house once a quarter, who could entertain all the ministers and two or three of the leaders or deacons of each church. This custom had a good effect; for we never had a slack missionary meeting, or thinly attended tea-meeting, as all came together as one body in union. Or should any extra help for any church be needed, all cheerfully came forward to the help of that individual denomination.

At my winding up of affairs on this station, the Quarter-day was a little behind. Mr. Cope and Mr. Barlow hearing of it went round the town, and in a few hours raised the needful to clear all out. This altogether was the best and most practical "Christian union" cause of anything I have ever known before or since.

There was a friendly kindness: "One and all" was in general their motto. They bore a love to their ministers, and carried it out as far as their means

would go. Captain Dunn, of Mevagissey, grandfather to the four Dinnicks, now travelling with us, was universally esteemed by all of us. But names are too numerous to mention; space forbids me to tell them. At my removal, after three years, I felt a depth of sorrow even to weeping, and it sunk into sore distress. But at Mevagissey we went aboard the *Mary Drake*; our friends gratuitously went out to sea with us to meet the steamer. My wife and child were very ill; they went into the cabin. The rest of us stayed on deck to save expense to the General Missionary Committee; and so we sailed to our next destination, which was Jersey in the Norman Isles.

The Norman Isles lie along the coast of Normandy. Barclay says—"Normandy, a *ci-devant* province of France, on the English Channel and Atlantic Ocean, about one hundred and fifty miles in length, eighty in breadth, and six hundred in circumference. The Norman people of Denmark and Norway, having entered France under Rollo, Charles the Simple ceded this country to them in 912, which from that time was called Normandy. Rollo was the first duke, and held it as a fief to the crown of France, and several of his successors after him, till William, the seventh duke, conquered England in 1066, from which time it became a *province* of England, till it was lost in the reign of King John, and re-united to the crown of France; but the English still keep the islands." One would wonder why Napoleon I. did not get this fine

group of English territory and annex it to the empire. But I judge he deemed it best not even to pluck a hair out of the lion's tail. Happy day when "nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." Isaiah ii. 4.

The islanders found it more profitable to cling to England, as they were allowed *duty free* to carry their produce to the English market; and get all they needed, *duty free* from other countries. One of the chief punishments to any who had misbehaved was, they had, *at their own expense*, to go out of the island and stay fourteen or twenty one days. This was easier to the state than keeping them in prison at a greater cost; and sensible people say it is a very good plan. But I was concerned for my sick wife and child and the rest of my family; also for the people where I was stationed. Mr. Wesley says—"Jersey is as much superior to the Isle of Wight as that island is to the Isle of Man."

St. Heliers was our landing place, and I found it dear enough: for it cost us eight shillings to get ashore; and other eight shillings to get to our chapel-house in Aquilla-road. What a difference to the brave fishermen under Capt. Dunn, of Mevagissey.

Several friends met us at the quay and "bade us welcome." On inquiring into the state of affairs, I was told that the chapel interest was over due; and I at once had to lay down nearly twenty pounds, or be in danger of losing the property; this was nearly all we had at command. And on inquiring about the state

of the congregation, I was told—"You may get forty of a Sunday night at the best of times ; and twenty of a Sunday morning ; and ten at the week-night preaching ; and half-a-dozen at the prayer meetings." This was sorrowful news to me, as we had no other place on the island. But I visited the friends as soon as I could, and found out several who had formerly attended. Thomas Drew again brought his bass viol, and I found he could use it well, and so encouraged him to try to form a singing class with my children and other young friends. Mr. Daniel Lucas, who was a steady young man, paid good attention to the sabbath school, and Mr. Hill with others rendered help. I was told Mr Hartley used to preach on the weigh bridge with good effect, and of the hard toil he had in begging money towards building the chapel ; and I found he and others were still respected. But the friends were sorry that a division had taken place ; and several persons had joined another church, and ultimately they built a large chapel. This had been a great drawback, and had much enfeebled our society. However, I tried to encourage our people and took the streets in earnest, and preached out of doors, and processioned through the whole neighbourhood round our chapel for about half-a-mile. This caused the inhabitants to look on with wonder.

One Sunday morning, after preaching out of doors at nine o'clock, seeing a gentleman crossing the square, I, from impression of mind ran over to him, and put in his hand "The Life and Labours of Elizabeth

Russell ;” he took it with him to church, and while the clergyman read the litany he read the memoir, and was much affected ; he came afterwards to our chapel, was impressed under the word and joined society. Others also obtained good, and our beautiful large chapel got better attended, and the societies increased, so that our processioning became a very mighty movement, and ere I left St. Heliers the congregation had trebled : indeed of a Sabbath night we have had nearly three hundred people. We got the interest paid up. In this effort Mr. Hartley, who was much esteemed, rendered us very great service at our chapel anniversary. Mr. Lucas told me at the Chester Conference that Jersey had never looked back from the time I went there. They are now a circuit.

In July, 1847, I was stationed at Guernsey, and my excellent friend, the Rev. Thomas Knox, succeeded me at St. Heliers ; his labours were owned of the Lord, and the friends put a gallery in the chapel. Mr. Le Bau continued a member and rendered good help. I attended the missionary service, and after this gentleman had given one pound at each of the three sermons on Sunday, and another pound at the public meeting on Monday, on my descending from the platform he laid his arm on my shoulder and wept much, saying, “O, sir, I have not given as much as I should, please put me down five pounds more.”

But, alas ! the cup of sorrow was again to be my lot. My wife sickened more and more ; our excellent friend, Dr. Collenette, gratuitously attended her for

some months ; but all was of no avail. Again I was bereaved, and I had four children, and the youngest was very ill, and had to go to the infirmary by Dr. Collenette's directions, where every help that this gentleman and others of the faculty could give was given her. Her mother had made a most triumphant end ; yet I dreaded the loss of the child. I had much trouble, and my mind somewhat sank. But I had friendship amongst the people. Also our friends in Jersey and Alderney, on my visit to them at their special services, expressed their sympathy. And though I laboured hard and they were kind, yet I could not rally up to the tone of energy which I had experienced in other parts ; but I saw some good done. We built a chapel at Bouet ; this was a village of mostly English speaking people, and as there was no other place of worship in it, I hoped that it would do well ; but having failed to get sanction for its erection, after five years the burden fell upon me, and when my children required all that I could spare from my salary for their schooling and trades, I had to pay nearly thirty pounds towards this loss, only that rule allowed me several years to pay it in : one fourth of my salary quarterly. Mr. James Bourne expressed great sympathy with me in this trouble, but could not help me. But I saw good done in Guernsey, and formed a friendship with them. Also, Mr. De Putron and Mr. De La Rue, at the death of my wife, showed me kindness, and so did others. Mr. Knox came

all the way from Jersey specially to perform the last sad office. The Lord reward them and their families for their love to me in this time of great distress. We had some increase in society.

At the District Meeting of 1849, I was put down for Portsmouth, and hoped to go there that I might have another course of labour in Hampshire, believing then that in the south of that county I should see as great a work as I had seen when I missioned single-handed the northern part. Indeed I had a longing desire to go there; but the Conference gave me a district exchange, and I was appointed to Stockton-on-Tees, in Sunderland district. Happily, just before the removing time Captain Robson, of the *Ariadne*, of Sunderland, was at St. Sampson's, and having a pious member of ours with him, they came to hear me preach at Bouet, and both were much blessed under the word. I formed a friendship with them, and held a service aboard their ship, and felt comfort.

Tidings reached me of my future destiny just before their sailing, and I requested that they would take my luggage; but this could not be done without passengers: so we agreed that Elizabeth and Hannah should sail with them, and I gave the captain ten shillings more than he asked for their passage and support, as I expected he would have to take them home to his house for some days before my arrival. Ann had a desire to comply with her aunt's invitation to go to Portland. So after winding all up, we took

the steamer to Southampton, and as I had given her plenty to make her comfortable she went to Portland, and I took Charlotte with me on to London the next morning. Our parting was painful, as I loved Ann much for her mother's sake.

On our way to London we had in the same compartment a mariner from on board a man-of-war; his dialect reminded me of early accents, and learning that he was from Derbyshire, near Brandside, I felt a warm affection for him, and we had a talk of former times. He asked me were I should stay for the night in London, and offered to go to the same lodgings and help me with the child and our luggage, as he had none to burden him. So we got to a temperance hotel, and having a few hours to spare I went to see Mr. Ride's family. Mrs. Ride felt much as we talked of former days. But I had to return to our lodgings, upon which I felt a little amused when they told me that, after I had gone away from the temperance hotel, they thought—"Should he be a London sharper and have absconded, leaving us the sickly child—what should we do?" The brave sailor said—"I say, Mistress, I have plenty of money, and you see I shall have more, and have a pension settled upon me for life, and I want a wife! You and I will get married and we will keep the bairn." All this and the rest of their talk, on my arrival, amused me much; but I said—"No friends, not for all the wealth and power of the British empire would I part with my child." I

read the scriptures and prayed with them, after settling my bill; and next morning took train at Euston Square for Winsford in Cheshire, and went to Middlewich, where I left my precious infant in charge of my mother and went on to Leeds, where I preached for my brother, and then hastened on to Stockton.

PART XII.

THE day I entered Stockton was wet and gloomy, and but very little was stirring in the place, so I looked on all as dreary and sighed for the south. But I was bent on doing my best for the station, and after a full examination of the affairs, I at once commenced my labours. We had service at Middlesbro', and here I learnt that the *Ariadne* had arrived at Seaham harbour. Mr. Tweedy very kindly offered to go with me with his waggon for the children and luggage. I had some trouble to get him to take even the cost of the toll-gates and horse feed. But we secured my treasure, and put all a going, and I pursued my labours. Mr. John Snowdon was my colleague, and Mr. Thos. Yates was on the Guisbro' branch. We all occasionally changed. I felt a fear lest I should not succeed in these towns, as they had, according to the statements of the leaders, always had first-rate preachers, and I had come from the south "a district exchange." My

mind was bowed down and as gloomy as the day when I entered the station. All this added to my grief, my wife being dead, and my family hundreds of miles apart. But Mrs. Rippon and Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, with others, were kind to the children.

A camp-meeting at Middlesbro' was cheering, especially the procession, and I thought Mr. John Garbutt was much in spirit, voice, and labours like my dear friend Mr. John Ride. At night we had the joy of seeing three precious souls converted in the lovefeast. These things cheered me a little, and I felt a great liking for that town, which had risen in thirty years from thirty inhabitants to upwards of thirty thousand. This success is mainly attributable to the Messrs. Pease, of Darlington, in their rail and shipping progress.

At Hartlepool, where Mr. Snowdon resided, I thought we should have a move; but great abilities were required. But when I learned Mr. Petty was one of the first missionaries there, I felt some comfort and assurance. They had here a great work, and it produced nearly half the support of the station, and only took half the labours of one of the preachers. Here I often preached in the open-air, and our congregations increased; and, indeed, Hartlepool very long stood well; it was a powerful society, and they took in many copies of our magazines. But I felt a dread that I should not keep pace with my predecessors; but I laboured in the open-air, and, blessed be God, not in

vain. The chapel kept densely crowded ; and I have met scores of people on a Sabbath evening going away because they could not get in, which caused me to say, "Pull the place down, then our friend Mr. Whitelock and the Trustees will be obliged to get land." They soon after built a chapel, 57 feet square, with a very deep gallery, where much good has been done.

One night while singing in the Hartlepool market place—

"Hear the christian pilgrim sing
Heaven's my home !
Through the telescope of faith
He looks o'er the river death,
And exultingly he saith—
Heaven's my home !"

a man heard me a mile off, and conviction struck him to the heart ; he came home, gave up his dog and gun, and gave his heart to God, which was a matter of thankfulness to Mr. and Mrs. Bruce, his parents, who had long been members with us.

Mr. Lupton had requested me to assist in Darlington circuit missionary meetings, with Mr. Hebbon. I went and preached, and Wm. Stoddart started for heaven. Our friends asked me how I liked the North ; and I replied, "I would rather be on the poorest station in the South than the richest in the North." They said this was different to what others said ; but I repeated my statement. I felt what I said.

Captain Rippon brought me word that Mr. Ride had expressed a strong desire to see me before he left for Australia. This was on my mind for some weeks; and during this time I saw a number saved and joined to society. Mr. Snowdon preached a temperance sermon at Middlesbro', and just before the service, a man, who had laid down to sleep after dinner, and dreamed something about the chapel, rose and came, and under this sermon was very powerfully awakened, and afterwards joined the society.

Also at Middlesbro' I saw a man converted who had led his wife a punching life through his drunken habits. She was a member of another denomination, but when her husband got saved, she joined the same class with him to endeavour to keep him in the good way. This was a very sensible act. They both joyfully held on together serving the Lord.

At Stockton and Yarm we saw a move, but yet not so rapid as at Middlesbro' and Hartlepool; at the former place I was questioned whether I did "right in appointing street and other extra meetings without first getting liberty from a leaders' or committee meeting." I told them I thought so. At Yarm, Brothers Clapham and Dryden encouraged me to do the best I could, for they were low enough. A vessel here from Goole was convenient for me to preach on, and I got liberty from the captain. This seemed new to many, so numbers came, and I preached to nearly three hundred people. Stepping ashore, I saw a man to whom

my heart was drawn, and I went to him and offered him my hand, but this he doggedly refused. But I pressed my point, and kindly took him by the hand, and said a few words about his soul, and then left him. But afterwards he said, "As Mr. Russell took hold of my hand, it went to my heart, and I turned to the Lord, though I had not been in a place of worship but once in seven years." This man became afterwards an active leader and local preacher; and at Yarm I saw a move. Glory be to God! Much good was done.

In compliance with Mr. Ride's request, I went to London to see him and bid him farewell. We had seen much good done together, and I yet hoped for another line of labour with him; but no, we must now part for ever in this world; yet not for ever, for I believe we shall meet in heaven with loved ones who have gone before.

I was thankful for the revival for some weeks before the cholera set in, as many had been saved, and the older members had got into a better course of labour.

The following is from the Magazine of 1849, page 692:—

"Sept. 3rd, 1849.—I had a special baptism at our morning's five o'clock prayer meeting; in Hartlepool, at one o'clock in the afternoon, showers of mercy fell upon an audience of two hundred people, while I proclaimed in a back street the all-sufficiency of Christ to save to the uttermost; and about one thousand people

heard me gladly in the evening in the market-place. A woman, with her infant in her arms, was deeply affected, and followed our procession to the chapel, where she turned fully to the Lord. Next morning, I was called to see her twice, while the cholera was raging in her system. In twelve hours she was a corpse. Lo ! a brand plucked from the burning. In about a week afterwards, her husband became a victim to the same disease ; but he had hope also in his death. Praise the Lord !

“ During this week I preached thirteen times, conducted eleven prayer-meetings, met three classes, and visited one hundred families ; and nearly twenty souls joined our societies. The cholera has removed from us nearly twenty members at Hartlepool. How desirable that we should keep pace with the disease by supplying the vacancies which death occasions, thus helping to people the realms of light. We saw several converted at West Hartlepool, and the class increased. At Kirklevington, a woman was convinced of her lost state while I was preaching, and by believing in Christ she was justified. I went to see her at her own house, where I found her rejoicing in the Lord, and had an excellent opportunity of speaking to her and her husband, and two other women and their husbands and families, about the salvation of their souls. God was in our midst, and spiritual profit seemed to be enjoyed by all present.

“ Middlesbro' has been doing well ever since we

had the camp-meeting. There have been some fatal cases of cholera there ; and the converting work is still moving on. Stockton is looking up a little, and the friends seem on the eve of a gracious work. At South Stockton I have been missioning in the streets ; seen good done, and formed a promising class of seven members. ‘O Lord, revive thy work !’ sincerely prays,
 Yours in the Lord, “THOMAS RUSSELL.”

In addition to the above accounts, I may state I felt very solemn at the time of Yarm Fair. I had told my children I meant to go and preach ; they said they would go with me, as they wished to be with me if I died, that they might be there at the time ; for the cholera had been several days in that town. On our getting near there, we were told that the people durst not stop in the place because of the affliction ; but we went forward, and I found Mrs. Robert Clapham had taken the disease. I went up into her room, and had a solemn time in conversation and prayer. But after all that could be done by her excellent husband and the doctors, the day following she died. O for meeting in a better world !

I received the following from Mr. Clapham to send to the Editor for the Magazine :—

“YARM, STOCKTON-ON-TEES CIRCUIT,
 APRIL, 1850.

“TO THE REV. JOHN FLESHER,—

“DEAR EDITOR,

“I know yourself, with our numerous hearty friends,

are glad to hear of any little improvement in our Zion. As the shouts of victory in one part of the field of battle stimulate the friends of the victors in another part, where victory is uncertain, so does prosperity in one place encourage soldiers of the cross to look for and expect triumphs in those places where the battle has long been doubtful. Many of our preachers and friends have laboured long and hard to see the work of God revive in this place; but for years the labour bestowed, and the good seed sown, appeared to produce little fruit. But notwithstanding past discouragements, prosperity has at length dawned upon us, and our 'labour has not been in vain in the Lord;' and now, they that have sown and they that reap may rejoice together. For the last six months we have had a steady, gradual revival of religion, without much outward excitement, during which time about forty souls have been converted to God, and, with rare exceptions, they stand well. During the fore part of the revival, many of those who were converted died of the awful epidemic that visited our town, and went triumphant home, leaving bright testimonies behind that they had gone to be with Jesus. Our chapel, for the last few years, has been in most distressing circumstances, and would, in all probability, have been lost to the Connexion, had it not been for this revival; but, thank God, in this respect we are now doing wonders. Most of the sittings in the chapel are let, and the trustees are placed in comfortable circum-

stances. Some of our warmhearted friends thought that while we were doing well we ought still to do better, and to pay off the debt of the chapel altogether. A plan was suggested, that at every Easter we should have a special effort for this purpose, by means of a tea meeting and public collections. The experiment was tried on Easter Sunday and Monday last. Two sermons were delivered on the Sunday by Mrs. Fryer, to crowded congregations. On Monday, we had one of the largest gatherings to tea ever witnessed in these parts, and the greatest satisfaction was realised by all present. After ample justice had been done to the tea, the company adjourned to the Association Chapel, kindly lent for the occasion, which was crowded to overflowing. The meeting was addressed by T. Russell, T. Seymour, T. Sadler, M. Truet, and Mrs. Fryer; Robert Bell, Esq., in the chair. It was a most triumphant meeting; and, we trust, lasting credit to our cause was the result. If we are to judge from public interest in our favour at our first effort, and from the noble sum raised, we shall, ere long, have God's house free from debt. We are bound to give thanks, hearty and sincere, to many kind friends who fitted up the spacious room with all kinds of designs, greens, roses, oranges, and ornaments, and who provided the tea gratis. The public saw, admired, and rewarded by their presence and support such disinterested conduct. Some of our friends say they will help us in future if we continue to pray for them, and that they

seek no other thanks. For one, I pray that they all may have the smile of heaven through life, and possess hearts and means to help us in our work of faith and labour of love ; and, finally, that they may die in peace and go to heaven to receive their reward.

“ROBERT CLAPHAM.”

Further particulars :—

“DEAR BROTHER FLESHER,

“I am thankful for the account the post has just brought me from Bro. Clapham, one of our local preachers at Yarm, who is diligent in pushing forward the work of God. I hereby cheerfully send it to you. I may add, never shall I forget the anguish of mind I felt for Yarm upon my first coming to this circuit. The congregations often contained only five or six persons, and sometimes at a prayer-meeting only two or three met together.

One night I had a solemn time in the Market-place, and while singing on my way to the chapel, I was powerfully struck at seeing thirty or forty fine-looking men, railway labourers, standing together by the road we had to pass. I felt overawed, and stopping the procession, I took off my hat in deep reverence, being much depressed in spirit before the Lord on their account. I begged them to go with me to the chapel, and to turn to God. Most of them followed ; and that night, while I preached from “Remember Lot’s wife,” deep went the arrows of conviction into some hardened hearts, and the cry was heard “What must I do to be

saved ?” Several stout-hearted ones that night set out for heaven, and are still pursuing their way thither.

“Another night, while preaching in Yarm, from “the pale horse,” many felt much divine power. Had no other good been done in Stockton circuit than that we have seen at Yarm, I should ever have been thankful that I came to the banks of the Tees.”

“THOMAS RUSSELL.”

I had my difficulties here, having no one but the children with me, and I feared for them, having to leave them at home so often alone ; so I determined to take them to be with their sister at my mother’s, at Middlewich, in Cheshire.

They had not long been there when Elizabeth determined, when ten years old, to go and learn the bonnet business with her cousin, in Manchester, at Mrs. Overend’s. She stayed there some time, and at Midsummer I went to the preachers’ meeting ; and on the Sabbath, the Manchester camp-meeting was held. Mr. Sugden came to the side of the waggon and urged me to announce the Connexion’s progress, as there were numbers of other denominations there, and he wanted them to know how we had been getting on. In the lovefeast at King Street we had nearly twenty converted to God. My daughter wept much. It was a solemn time. She afterwards went to the stay business, at Mr. Parker’s, and stayed there twelve months. Mr. and Mrs. Howcroft with their daughter showed her great kindness ; and Mr. H. one day gave her sixpence for deliberately

saying the Lord's Prayer, *in French*, at his desire. I often had much exercise of mind for my children, but they all got religion, and were to me a great comfort though we were far apart.

At the March Quarter-day of 1850, I was requested to stay again; but the District Meeting determined otherwise; and I was stationed to Brough, in Westmoreland. I attended Conference at Nottingham, and was solemn as I thought of former days, and perceived that many old friends were absent, and others were filling their places.

The Rev. Hugh Bourne invited me with him to Mr. Spencer's, and prayed much with us; and was glad that I took up his brother's case as to getting some compensation, seeing that he had done so much for the Connexion's support, in its early days, especially for more than twenty years at its commencement. John Gordon Black, Esq., of Sunderland, helped me in it.

As we had had so great a work at Stockton, Mr. Bourne wished me to stay there another year; but my word had gone for Westmoreland; so this station was sanctioned, and I prepared for Brough.

On making up my accounts I found we had two hundred and fifty-two increase of members for the year, and about thirteen pounds increase of Quarter-day income, and I left the circuit with thirty-three pounds in hand; so that all was getting on well. To God be all the glory. Amen.

In July Mr. Abraham Hilton met me at Darlington

with his waggon. But having to wait sometime for him, as I was standing by my luggage in the street, Wm. Davies, Esq., came and spoke kindly to me, and, though a stranger, he invited me to his house to take some refreshment. A firm friendship sprung up between us which continues to this day. The Lord reward him. Amen.

The journey and conversation as we passed through Barnard Castle and over Stainmoor was very interesting. On reaching Northside, looking down the Eden valley, as the sun was setting, all appeared very fine for many miles ; and I soon found some very pious people in the station. My predecessor, Mr. Wm. Fulton, had left all in as good order as could be expected ; I was glad for this brother's sympathy as it cheered me.

PART XIII.

THIS station had four chapels, viz. : Brough, Mouthlock, Dufton, and Newbiggin, all of small dimensions ; but all large enough for the population in the several localities. Here, Bros. Batty, John and Thomas Butcher, with other of our friends, who had often crossed Stainmoor in many a winter's blast, to mission these parts, were held in great respect. To write of Brough circuit, without a record of the Messrs. Hilton, Jackson, Buck, and Slinger, together with Mr. Swales, the schoolmaster at Kaber, and also Esquire Ewbanks and

others, would hardly be in order ; for the converting power had been on them, and their families, friends, neighbours and relatives had many of them received good.

Mr. Wm. E. Parker, of Manchester, wished to come out to travel, and he joined me in this extensive circuit. The journeys were at times long and tiresome for one so much used to a good home and kind friends as he was ; but the Lord made him useful. Glory be to God.

I opened Kirby Stephen, the largest town in the circuit, and second in the county, by preaching in the market place. Many years after, as I was one day near Coverdale, I met a gentleman on horseback, of whom I asked the road. He said, "Have not I seen you here before?" I said, "No, sir." "Well," he replied, "I think I must have seen you somewhere." I said, "I have been in Westmoreland, but that is about fourteen years ago." "Ah! that's it," he replied ; "and I lent you a chair to stand on to preach in Kirby market-place." "Yes, sir," I said, "and you took me in to get a cup of tea." He then said, "My wife and I were talking about you last night, and wondering what had become of you." I replied, "The Lord came before me." And he then said, "Go on to the house, and tell Mrs. to get you some dinner." "No, sir," I replied : "but if you will go with me, I will call and stop an hour with you." He said, "I have about five hundred acres of land here, and I am

looking after the stock ; but I will return with you, and hope you will call some time, and spend a week or two with me, for we shall be glad of your company." He returned with me, and his good lady provided me a dinner of beautiful fish from their own mountain river ; and then he drove me several miles in his gig until he got me another lift. This was real kindness ! At Kirby Stephen, Mr. Jarvis Close, and Mrs. Close and family, shewed me respect. Miss Close, with their servant Sophia, had joined us ; and I formed a class there. These two brave young friends soon became useful, and were put on the plan as exhorters ; and it was pleasing to see them afterwards frequently crossing the Fells, neatly attired, on their horses, going to take their appointments in distant parts of our circuit. Since then, Mr. John Hilton has aided in building a good chapel in that town, and they are doing well.

We knew what storms in Westmoreland were. The Elm Winds were of a peculiar order : at times, great gusts, then a dead calm, as if to make way for other strong currents rolling in the air, such as I never knew anything like it before ; and, indeed, the people said that "only in South Africa, off Table Mountain to Table Bay, is there supposed to be any thing like it." Such have been the statements of travellers.

I had on the last day of the year, one of the most severe journeys that had fallen to my lot. At noon on the 31st of December, I was set down from a steam

engine at Ingleton, where they were forming a new railway line, and was then nearly thirty miles from where I knew any friend. I set out and walked up King Dale five miles, where I could scarcely see building or tree all the way, and the waters looked a blackish colour, and the ground seemed bare and barren ; but coming to the head of the dale, I saw a house, and called to buy some bread and milk, and paid for it. Then I asked them how far they were from any place of worship, and they said, "Nearly five miles." I asked liberty to pray with them ; but they said, "Nay, we have no praying here ; we go to church." However, I kneeled down and prayed while the family continued busy about their employment. I then left them and went on my journey. My feelings were very peculiar ; everything wore a sombre aspect, and my mind was deeply bowed within me. A storm speedily set in, and I got a severe drenching with rain ; but I pressed on my way as best I could, and went over the mountain for Dent, the most lonely way I thought that I had ever travelled ; but I had my pocket map which was my guide. The rain set in more furiously, and the storm became very severe. By the time I was at the top I was wet through, and had a long distance before me ; but on I went to Dent and Sedbergh, by which time the night set in, and I was fourteen miles off my destination. The mountain torrents rolling in a furious manner down the hills, and in the dark made all very gloomy, even

to melancholy. On the road I passed an inn, and thought to have called to stop all night ; but it being late I feared, as my clothes would be wet to put on in the morning, it might be injurious ; so I determined to get forward, and at about ten o'clock this dreary night, I reached Mr. Close's, of Kirby Stephen. This kind friend received me with tenderness, and said, " I wonder that you are not cast away, for many have been lost on these mountains in better weather than this ;" and at once he told his daughter and servant to get all in readiness for me to instantly go to bed, and for them to wash my clothes. So I went at once to rest ; and in ten hours I felt much better to get on the remainder of my way to Brough, where I had engaged to help at a temperance meeting, and where they had got music in abundance. I sung them " The poor drunkard's child." This had a wonderful effect : many wept, and several signed the pledge. That melody was new, both as to words and tune, in Brough ; and after giving them an account of my adventurous journey the night before, that I might reach them, I begged permission to go home ; and in my lonely dwelling I laid down to rest.

Many a wearisome journey I had that winter in the mountain ranges of Westmoreland ; but spring coming was more pleasant. And one day, after a long course of visiting from Dufton to Tebay, I came to Orton very tired. Learning that Mr. Shepherd had come

there, I called, after many hours' toil. Mrs. Shepherd came to the door, and this kind lady said, "O, sir, come in. I was thinking about you an hour ago, and wondering where you were." And I at once thought the Lord had impressed her mind before my arrival, to make way for me : this I looked on as providential. Mr. George Yare, one of our local preachers, had made a good impression while living with this family.

March Quarter-day had a great gathering ; for nearly thirty assembled. Mr. Close, of Rounthwaite, with all the distant comers assembled, and they unanimously requested the district meeting to re-station me ; but I was removed to be with Mr. Lupton, at South Shields. The adjourned Quarter-day appealed, as they wished me to stay, but the Conference confirmed the appointment to the banks of the Tyne, whither I went in July, and I found our friends had two chapels in Shields. The Glebe would seat nearly one thousand people ; but their burden of debt was great. However, they had for some time before resolved on public collections every other Sunday, and private contributions the alternate Sabbaths. The public collection was from seat to seat with the boxes. The last of these which I made, amounted to thirty-four shillings ; as we were generally well-filled of a Sabbath evening. The other Sabbath, a dish on a three-legged tressel stood at the door, and two brethren minded it : this generally brought in eight or ten shillings. And by these means our friends, in years,

got down their ponderous debt. They had a valuable Sabbath school, and to my astonishment, at the anniversary recitals, my daughter, Elizabeth, was awarded the first prize; this astonished me, as she was only eleven years old: but Ann had returned from Portland, and had had her in training for the occasion. I felt humbled and thankful. The March Quarter-day decided for a removal, and the district meeting left me without a station; but Mr. Richard Bulmer, and the other leaders in Shields, appealed against this, and forwarded my historical record of above twenty years' itinerancy, and of above nineteen-hundred increase on my stations with increase of temporal matters accordingly: they declaring "That Brother Russell should either have a station or they would not have a second preacher." I was put back to South Shields; yet my mind was much bowed down, and to my sorrow I say it, I sunk in spirits, and had hard work to get through the second year at Shields. I grieved and became very low, and feared for the future, as my confidence was shaken.

At a round of missionary meetings in our circuit, the general committee delegate of the last district meeting was the deputation, and when returning from the last meeting, the following conversation took place:—

G. C. D.—"I hear, Mr. Russell, that you blame me for your being left without a station."

My reply was, "As General Committee Delegate,

you should not have suffered the District Meeting to close until all its business was done."

G. C. D.—"All its business was done."

I replied, "Its business was not all done."

G. C. D.—"Its business was all done."

I replied, "It was not all done."

G. C. D.—"But I say it was all done."

I still said, "No, sir, it was not all done."

G. C. D.—"But I say it was all done."

I still declared that "It was not all done."

G. C. D.—"What was there not done?"

I respectfully said, "There was a travelling preacher left unstationed."

G. C. D.—"Ah, I did not see that."

Then again, I said, "I waited eleven days for notes of allegation which you should have seen that I had got concerning it, why it was so."

G. C. D.—"There were none."

I said, "Then you should have said so, and have put me in the best track to proceed. But I found it necessary to review my labours and appeal to Conference. That appeal ought to have been fully read in Conference, for it was respectfully written. I feared that I might be too much tried to fully have respect to a respectful course, so I desired Mr. Lupton and our circuit committee to read it before I sent it to the General Committee." I felt assured I had not over-rated my remarks.

My brother Elijah came and spent a few days with me previously to his going to Australia. In my low and gloomy state of mind I felt sorrowful, and several friends suggested the thought of my going into business to support my motherless family. However, I could not see this clear, as I thought my work in the ministry was not done. I, therefore, dragged on, still feeling as if I was delivering my message to the wrong people.

At the following District Meeting I was put on Darlington circuit. At the July removal of 1853 I repaired to that station. I had previously received a letter from the superintendent minister as to the state of the circuit. He informed me that the quarterly income was about twenty-three pounds, and the missionary meeting yearly income was about twenty-five pounds. What were two families to do on these sums towards support? I felt thankful for this frank statement. But money matters had ever been with me but a secondary consideration in the ministry.

On our arrival at Shildon I found it just as stated; but I resolved to gird the armour on afresh, and I earnestly prayed and humbled myself before the Lord, and sought help from His merciful hands; and before the quarter was up I saw some indications of good; yet I was very sorrowful. Other trials befell me in connection with chapel matters; but Mr. Handley who had been a travelling preacher came from South Shields, thirty miles to Darlington, to encourage me to keep my

station as a travelling preacher, for though he was doing well in business, yet he knew the sorrows of mind attendant on leaving the work of the ministry. So I bore up and endured as best I could. These were amongst some of the trials of life that I had to go through.

I well recollect kneeling down in the snow one dark morning near Aycliffe, and begging the Lord would seal his mercy afresh on my heart and help me once more. This reminded me, and does even to this day, of Sampson at Gaza, Judges xvi. 20. I prayed, I wrestled, I struggled, and felt much, my sorrow at times was unbearable ; I had much to mourn over. But ere long my captivity seemed to turn ; the station rose ; I felt cheered with visits to my old friends at Yarm, Middlesbro', and Hartlepool, at their chapel anniversaries, and seeing good done with them. This was truly a matter of thankfulness.

Besides this I saw good doing on our own station, and our congregations rose, and we saw the societies increase, and precious souls were saved. This answered every purpose, for when sinners turn to God they become good supporters of his cause, as when any fail they get slack in their contributions ; first the heart goes ; then, second, the hand is withheld, and all becomes a drag, the preachers a burden, and they invent other modes.

Though at our September Quarter-day we were ten

guineas short of paying our way, by Midsummer following we got all straight with a good increase of members. To God be all the glory. Amen.

Mr. Smith left and Mr. Clarke came. The work went on ; and on the Shildon side and at Tofthill we saw many saved. The Rev. Mr. Barlow, the church clergyman at Cockfield, was very sociable. I told him I should like to see him in the revival. He replied, "We think it right, Mr. Russell, to do our duty, and then leave the event with God." However, he was kind hearted, and visited our members, or any others, carrying them medicine in their sickness, and oftentimes a good dinner from the parsonage, when it was required. I liked him much, and hope to meet him in a better world. I take the following from the Magazine of 1854, page 53 :—"Anniversary sermons were preached at Aycliffe, on Sunday, November 6th, 1853. Capt. John Welburn in the afternoon, and the Rev. T. Russell in the evening. The Lord was with us, and the collections were in advance of those of any former year. Several of our friends had removed from the place, and those who remained had nearly grown faint-hearted ; but we are thankful to say that a fresh impulse was given to the work, and hopes are now entertained of things doing better." It now affords me pleasure to say that it proved to be so. I stayed a second year, and, thank God, not in vain. During my time on this station I had the honour of a visit to the Westgate circuit, to supply for Mr. Bastow, while he

visited our circuit. During this change his son Richard cried for mercy, and found salvation.

At Darlington, I generally slept at Mr. Gair's, though I had afterwards numbers of friends, for nearly every time I went there we had good done. Mr. Davies, of another denomination, though up in life as to business and property, gave me a general invitation, and his affection has ever continued. And our own leaders and friends, too numerous to mention, all were warm-hearted, and I liked them much.

During my second year here we saw the work move on still more rapidly.

June 10th, 1855.—I attended Evenwood camp-meeting. The processioning through the village was good, and on the camp ground the whole course of services was beneficial. The lovefeast was one of the most powerful I ever witnessed; nearly one hundred persons spoke in less than two hours, and at the close six precious souls professed to receive pardon. Glory be to God. At this place Bro. Bowman joined. We also regained our chapel which had been lost to the Connexion for some years.

Sunday, June 17th.—We held a camp-meeting at Aycliffe. The processioning was powerful, but the heavy rain prevented our being out all the day. Between five and six o'clock, however, we held an open-air service on the green, and good attention was paid to the word preached. At the lovefeast five souls obtained salvation; one of them was a man who came

out for a walk from near Darlington, five miles off, and one of our friends invited him to the camp-meeting. He complied with the invitation, stayed at our lovefeast, and found liberty. He said, "I little thought of this when I left home."

"Monday, June 18th, was Quarter-day, at Darlington. We had a good increase for this quarter. We are also doing well in schools, chapels, and finances. I am happy to say that during the past two years we have had an increase of above one-third both in money and members. May the glorious work still roll on, and the earth be filled with the glory of the Lord!"

At the suggestion of Mr. Robson, the Quarter-day very generously made me a present of two pounds on leaving this station. We cleared all off, and left nearly nine pounds in hand; so that prosperity did mark our steps.

Having spent six years in this district, it now became a question as to the future of my labours. Though while I had much to mourn over in the north, I had some things to rejoice about; for Mr. Petty, in his History of the Connexion, at page 403, refers to Sunderland district as having had in most circuits more or less increase, and says;—"Wolsingham, Darlington, and Stockton. These three named increased more than the rest."

It was during the period that I was on the two last named circuits that those increases took place, and the first circuit of the three was alongside of us; though I don't attribute any good from our labours in particu-

lar to the Wolsingham circuit. The greater part of that circuit, Mr. Lupton told me, had been taken from Darlington circuit. A further reflection gives me pleasure, *i.e.*, Stockton and Darlington, ever since those revivals, have gone on, or rather maintained their ground quite equal to the rest of these powerful circuits of the Sunderland district. This is a matter of great thankfulness.

But now the Conference had closed, and I met the train at Darlington in which two of our lay delegates from the north had arrived; and one gentleman told me that my station was at Portadown, but he did not know whether it was in England, Scotland, or Wales. However, I knew Portadown was in Ireland; and, I may say, I would rather have received tidings of a station in Caffre-land, in Africa, amongst the blacks. For Ireland was the last country in the world that I would have chosen to go to, and Portadown was the last town on our list of Irish stations:—the last town of the last station of the last country in the world that I should have thought of going to.

I wrote home to Shildon to let the children know, and this caused them no little sorrow. Hannah cried, and Ann cried, Charlotte cried, and Elizabeth cried. This lamentation got known amongst the neighbours, and Betty Galloway came, as did others, and these brave women could not refrain from tears. It was to me too a source of grief and severe bitterness.

Again, my friends from Shields and other places en-

couraged me ; and on calm reflections I determined to go to what I deemed a transport station, and make the best I could of it. As to the name of the town, I supposed it indicated some meaning. For instance, "Port" means a place where vessels lie ; "Down," I knew in the Anglo-Saxon language meant "hill ;" so joining the two words by "a" or "of," gave to me some idea of a place of commerce. And I meant as soon as possible to see something done there.

I deemed it proper to leave Ann in her business in Shildon, and Hannah with her, and to take Elizabeth and Charlotte with me. It was no little thing to thus break up my family. I had lost dear ones by death. The Rev. Hugh Bourne was dead ; I went two hundred miles to his funeral, and preached at his grave ; and never shall I forget his weeping, trembling brother, who stood by the graveside in bitter sorrow. The effect on me was like a shock. My mother, too, was dead, with whom for more than thirty years I had the greatest christian union ; and I had had great spiritual support both by Mr. Bourne and my mother. But now these ties were loosed ; yet I had loved ones still in England.

PART XIV.

BUT I made all as ready as I could—feeling thankful for what the Lord had done for me—and in July I sailed from Liverpool. On the next morning, while at

sea, about three o'clock, as I was looking over my map, in Bradshaw, a young man came to me and said—"Sir, can you please tell me where Domore is?" I said "No, for I am a stranger to Ireland." He seemed anxious about his affairs. So I asked him what business he was of. He replied, "I am a minister, and want to go to Domore, near Dublin, in Ireland." I asked what denomination he belonged to, for from his attire he did not look very clerical. He said, "I am a Primitive." I said, "What Primitive—an English Primitive or an Irish Primitive?" He said, "I did not know there were two sorts: but I belong to those vulgarly called Ranters." And with this last sentence he stooped near me, and whispered the last word. I at once asked him where he was from, and he said "York." I asked him how Mr. Davies was. This rather astonished him. I then asked where were his credentials. He said, "In my box, which is amongst the luggage;" and he was going to get his document; but I told him to never mind it then. I told Elizabeth to give him some food. And then I asked, "Did you ever see me before?" He replied, "Yes, I saw you last night as you were buying some pigs' feet of an Irish woman in Liverpool." I then said, "It's not 'Domore' you are going to, but Donaghmore; and it is not near Dublin, but near Newry." I said, "We are going to Lisburn, and you shall go with us there, and to-morrow, I see by the guide, you can get a train; so you may make

yourself comfortable." Had this young man landed with his enquiries "For Domore, near Dublin," the railway people and car drivers would soon have lightened him of his heavy purse. So it was well he fell in with us, and we all reached Belfast, and made to our excellent friend's, Mr Knox, then stationed there, who kindly received us. Mrs. Knox wept when she saw the children,—and thought of the death of their noble mother eight years before. I shall ever feel thankful for the kindness of these dear friends, and for the welcome they gave us on the Irish shores. After a rest and refreshment we went on, and Mr. Knox saw us safe in Lisburn, about six-and-a-half Irish miles, eight miles English from Belfast.

We found all feeble enough, for though the people were made acquainted with our arrival, I had only two to preach to on the Sunday morning, besides my own children. So I had time for reflection after service, and to get ready for night, when we had a few more. I think the morning collection was one penny, and the night threepence.

During the week I visited and preached at several country places, and tried to make the best of everything; and began to gather up former readings, and to read more about this part of the British Empire.

And ultimately I learned that the noted Irish linen trade was not native in its origin. William, Prince of Orange, who was a Protestant, and had married Mary, daughter of James the II., had been invited

to England to be king, and a conflict ensued ; but at the battle of the Boyne, in Ireland, William conquered. An old poet puts this sentence into the mouth of the Prince of Orange :—

“ God shall be the King to-day,
And I'll be general under.”

The battle of the Boyne closed the conflict, and England had rest ; but there was a doggedness amongst the Papists of Ireland, and the priesthood hung to the old system, and felt a fixedness of purpose to adhere to Popery. But for some time the Covenanters of Scotland had found a refuge in Ireland, and they and other Presbyterian clergymen had some large congregations in Ulster, and in particular in the counties of Down, Armagh, and Antrim ; and here many of the Lord's saints had had refuge during the reign of Charles II., and had laboured hard to get places of worship. And William III., after settling on the British throne, turned his attention to the bettering of the condition of the Irish population. He invited Louis Crommelin to undertake the direction and management of the manufacturing of linen, hoping this would be beneficial to the country in general. It had long been the policy of English monarchs to induce foreign artizans to settle in Ireland, and establish new branches of skilled industry there. It was hoped that the Irish people might be induced to follow their example, and that thus the unemployed

population of that country, instead of being a source of national poverty and weakness, might be rendered a source of national wealth and strength. An act was passed in 1697, containing various enactments calculated to foster the growth of flax, and the manufacture of linen cloth.

Crommelin belonged to a family who had carried on the linen manufacture in its various branches in France for upwards of four hundred years, and he had himself been engaged in the business for more than thirty years at Ormond-court, near St. Quentin, in Picardy, where he was born. He was very well fitted for the office to which the king called him, being a person of admirable business qualities, of excellent good sense, and of remarkable energy and perseverance. Being a Protestant, and a man of much foresight, he had quietly realised what he could of his large property in the neighbourhood of St. Quentin, shortly before the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, and he migrated across the frontier into Holland before the bursting of the storm.

In 1698, Crommelin, having accepted the invitation of William, left Holland, accompanied by his son, and shortly after his arrival in England he proceeded to the north of Ireland, to fix upon the site best adapted for the intended undertaking. After due deliberation, he pitched upon the ruined village of Lisnagarvay as the most suitable for his purpose ; and just across the wooden bridge over the river Lagan his first bleaching

ground was started at a place called Hilden ; towards which concern Crommelin advanced £10,000, and William granted him a patent. And the king approving, appointed him "Overseer of the Royal Linen Manufactory of Ireland ;" and Crommelin at once sent invitations abroad to the Protestant artizans to come over and join him ; and numbers of them who had fled from the cruel exterminating persecution in France, and some too who were yet lingering in that Papal country, responded to his call ; and a little colony of refugees of all ranks was soon planted at Lisnagarray, which place had been formerly burned down. And now, as a memorial of this fact, its name was changed to Lisburn, and the place shortly began to exhibit an appearance of prosperity.

But what was Louis Crommelin, many may wish to know. I answer, this brave enterprising man was a Huguenot, the name given to French Protestants ; and this noble race of people were the backbone of France, but the papal priests and dignities resolved on their destruction. To go back to the Massacre of St. Bartholomew on the 24th of August, 1572 : A pretended friendship was fostered by Catherine de Medicis, who artfully contrived a marriage between her daughter Margaret and Henry of Bern, King of Navarre, chief of all the Huguenots ; and many of the Protestants hoping thus to have peace, fell into the snare, and so went to Paris in large numbers to celebrate the event. The marriage

was performed with great splendour in the cathedral church of Notre Dame on the 18th of August, 1572. There followed a succession of festivities, in which the leaders of both sides participated, and the fears of the Huguenots were completely disarmed. But between two and three o'clock on the morning of the twenty-fourth of the same month, the great papal bell of St. Auxerrois rang for morning prayers. This was the pre-arranged signal for the dreadful butchery to begin ; and for three days followed a wholesale perfidious massacre of an unarmed and unsuspecting and innocent people. These dreadful events in the capital were almost immediately followed by similar deeds all over France. The numbers killed have been variously estimated. Mr. Bourne, in the Ecclesiastical History, says 50,000 ; Sully, the French historian, says 70,000 ; while other writers estimate the victims at 100,000.

This information is derived from Smiles' Book on the Huguenots, and from the History of the Archeology of Ulster, and from other sources. And further, the information runs to show that though afterwards there was some cessation of persecutions, yet ultimately, after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, the Papists ran on with their cruelties, until France got drained of the best of her subjects, who then fled and carried away their arts and trades, so that in a great measure France was pauperised, while other countries derived the benefit of the presence of some of the most industrious people the world had in it. England, with its silk manufacture,

and Ireland, with its linen trade, were both successful. I noticed in particular in Lisburn churchyard the gravestone of its great benefactor, and also of others of the French refugees who lie buried there. While traveling this mission, I found many families who claimed descent from the Huguenots, and they could give me very touching statements of the persecutions of their forefathers. This endeared them to me, and especially so when I saw some of them converted to God.

My station in Ireland at first gave me pain of mind, as I had only formed my judgment of the Irish people from the many labourers who came to England in time of our harvests, and most of those were people who did not leave any impression of favour concerning either themselves, their families, or their country; so that I felt a great difficulty at first in forming any friendship, or making any acquaintance with the people. However, after some twelve months, my trial in these matters a little subsided; for hunger will make a man eat, and weariness will make him lie down whether he would or not. And as I had come to do the best I could in the name of the Lord, I laboured at it with all diligence; and, thank God, not in vain; for at Drumclough I saw several obtain good, amongst whom was a man who had a brother who lived at Hillsboro', and he desired me to see him. I did so, and called again; but when I was on that side afterwards he had removed, and I had a difficulty in finding him out; but at length I learned he had gone to Shamrock Vale.

There I got another interview, and told them I would preach in their house. This they consented to ; and on the day appointed I went early, and visited the whole neighbourhood ; and several came, to whom I preached. A lady present seemed to receive the word in a praying spirit, and I requested her to pray. A gracious influence attending that service, I appointed another meeting and another, until my way opened for meetings in other houses ; and at length I formed a class, and this excellent lady became the leader, and she also formed a Sunday-school. The toil was not in vain, for good was done in other places, and labourers were raised up. Glory be to God !

Our lovefeasts became very noted ; and at the time of these quarterly services, the FRIENDS, whose place of worship was opposite, had their quarterly meetings. I used to fear lest our lively singing would interrupt them, but there was no complaint ; and we were glad to see their twenty or thirty carriages lining our street. We could joy in each other's prosperity.

The following is taken from the Magazine of 1858, page 108 :—

“ DEAR EDITOR,—

“ We have just finished our second round of missionary services in this station. This is the third anniversary since my coming hither ; and thankful I am to be able to say, each of the three years has exceeded its predecessor, which, considering the low state of the financial world will give you and all our friends great pleasure.

“Our first and chief round was attended by the Rev. George Kidd, of Haslingden circuit, Lancashire, who rendered us efficient help. At Lisburn, also, the Rev. Wm. Mulloy, Wesleyan, preached; and Alexander Riddell, Esq., took the chair. At Drumsill, Mr. Matthew Totton presided; and Mr. Rollins at Whitemountain, where at the second round Mrs. Rollins preached with good effect. Nov. 1st, Mr. Totton preached at Drumclough. Nov. 8th, the Rev. T. Knox preached at Culcavey and Shamrock Vale; and, the same day, Mr. Riddell preached at Cross Lane. Nov. 12th, the Rev. Wm. Bickerdike preached at M’Clutchy’s; the writer, too, had to take part in both rounds of services.

“Missionary meetings.—Saturday, Nov. 7th, the Rev. T. Knox aided us at Drumclough. Monday, 9th, at Shamrock Vale, Bro. Greenfield assisted us; at this place Miss Barnsley has a Sunday-school, which is doing well, in our preaching-house. Tuesday 10th, at Mr. Graham’s, of Drumbeg, where Mr. James Wier took the chair. On Wednesday, 11th, at Culcavey; H. Hart, Esq., presided, and helped us nobly. At Killulta, James Maze, Esq., presided; the Rev. John Maze, who has written many of the Crayon Sketches that have been published in our London papers, assisted. At Ballinderry we preach in their uncle’s house. These kind brothers always help, and so do their parents, who are descendants of the French Huguenots; and here we have always rest. At Ballypitmave we had a successful service at Mr. M’Magra’s.

“ I am happy to inform you, that though with much trembling I left the shores of my native land, and though I dreaded coming to Ireland, yet I do praise God my feeble labours have not been in vain in the Lord. I know many of my spiritual children and friends in England have prayed for me, and the numerous friends of our missions have stood as a united band, swelling the solemn cry, ‘ Thy kingdom come !’ We have seen souls on this mission converted to God, and some too who are useful in the church.

“ Our advance in members is twenty per cent. ; Quarter-day money, twenty-five per cent. ; and missionary money, fifty per cent. For these things we are truly glad, and much humbled before the Lord. May we still go on and prosper, and every part of our beloved Zion increase and abound more and more. Amen.

“ But this success has not been without much and ardent labour ; we have nearly twenty places, besides new openings, and I do not like to miss one, which causes much toil to be undergone. My usual course of sermons numbers from nine to eleven each week. besides often leading classes and visiting one hundred families, and averaging nearly fifty miles walking. But for the good I have seen I am thankful that I ever was born. During the late riots at Belfast concerning street-preaching, it was thought the storm would come upon us in Lisburn ; and I was threatened that if I did not keep my preaching indoors that I should suffer for it. But having contended with mobs in former

years, and been very much persecuted in the south of England, and never foiled, but having seen a number of stations formed amidst great perils, I was not going to be frightened in the north of Ireland at a few threats ; and, indeed, I can adopt the Apostle's language, Acts xx. 24 : ' But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.'

" Begging an interest in your prayers, that I may be made more useful, and that our beloved Zion may still prosper, I am, Yours in the Lord,

" THOMAS RUSSELL."

I had the pleasure of attending the Jubilee camp meeting on Mow, May 31st, 1857. My daughter Elizabeth went with me, and we stayed by request at Mr. James Bourne's, at Bemersley. Our venerable sire accompanied us nearly four miles daily to that great service, and I found him very vigorous in his memory of former times, distinctly pointing out the spot where the blacksmith's shop stood, and where Daniel Shoebotham, Matthias Bailey, and Thomas Cotton lived. He also told us where the Ashes Farm was, all near to or at Harriseahead ; also which was the Trubsham colliery.

On our nearing the camp ground on the Cheshire side of Mow, Mr. Bourne showed us the road where his team drew the timbers that Mr. Hugh Bourne

bought and constructed into buildings, in order that he might have them licensed in the Bishop's court. Also he named his servant-man who drove his team at the time, to carry those timbers fifty years before, when at so great a cost they maintained the camp meeting cause, and when only he and his brother bore the burden in that great work.

On coming on the ground, Mr. Bourne's memory was as fully occupied in reminiscences of the first camp meeting, and he pointed out to us where each stand was, and also the house where his brother preached his first sermon July 12th, 1801; and the whereabouts the great course of prayer went on after the sermon. I felt a great pleasure in receiving all this information.

At the commencement of the meeting, the Rev. W. E. Saunders, superintendent of Tunstall circuit, desired me, as I was one of the oldest ministers present, with Mr. John Coulson, to take the lead. This kindness to this day I very highly appreciate.

The first stand was well sustained. Bro. Jonathan Ireland, of Manchester, with Bro. Williams, from Chester, effectually led the singing, and laboured hard at that meeting. Mr. Ireland asked me to commence a second stand, several joined me in doing so; soon after which I was remarkably struck with the melodious voice and powerful ministry of the Rev. John Simpson, now of Leeds. This certainly was to me very cheering. After which, we had a third preaching

stand ; and during the afternoon, a fourth stand ; and I was glad to meet Bros. Samuel Turner, Benjamin Brown, and many other companions of our early labours in the mission field.

It was supposed that we had more than thirty thousand people present. Mr. Bourne accompanying me often leaning on my arm at every praying company ; this honour I felt, and joyfully appreciated ; I felt his influence as on former times. The day was fine, the sight grand, the meeting glorious—many received good, and I got a deeper baptism in my own soul. Glory for ever be to God. Amen.

On Monday, June 1st, Mr. Bourne was up at four a.m., and prepared our breakfast, when we again repaired to the camp meeting. The conversation was again renewed of the early times of the Connexion, especially of the Standley class, and of Mr. Hugh Bourne's forming it, and appointing his brother James to be the leader.

From the top of Mow we could see a great stretch of country, over Cheshire to the borders of Lancashire, and far in the directions of Derbyshire and Shropshire, and our minds were much drawn on former mission toils.

The services were well supported through the day, and at night we had a powerful meeting in a large tent.

June 2nd.—We finally broke up, and I returned to Bro. Broad's, at Congleton, and thence back to Ireland.

Through mercy our increase was still on the advance,

and Lisburn, instead of being the lowest in number, became the highest. I very much wanted to build a chapel there, but it was thought we had better remain as we were, though I saw the way to accomplish it, and to this day I feel grieved that I was not allowed to purchase the property at the top of Bridge-street, where we might have built a good chapel.

PART XV.

AT the Conference of 1858, my removal was to Donaghmore and Portadown, which latter place is a busy, active market-town. On my first entrance I found our friends were renting a small room over the shambles gateway, for which they paid a heavy enough rent ; and many a good sermon was preached there to two or three people, and often the preacher had to go and return without any other person attending ; and on my going I could not find the iron gate keys, as this was a sort of union possession. My only plan was to take the street ; so I laboured often out of doors when I might have been indoors. After my first sermon in the street one man, who was blessed, started for heaven, and joined us.

Donaghmore had a chapel of sufficient dimensions for the thinly inhabited locality where it stood, but it lacked comfortable seats. Mr. Wilson and his three noble sisters upheld the Sabbath-school ; and Miss

Marshall was a great helper. The Messrs. John and William Kidd, with Mr. M'Connell, were very acceptable local preachers. My friend and predecessor, Mr. Knox, had maintained a firm and useful course for the previous two years, and he and his wife and family were much respected. Mr. John Taylor, who had been some time on the station, was my colleague. I felt a desire for extending the mission; and as Mr. Thomas George Crosby under Mr. Nullis's labours in England had got converted, of whom Bro. Nullis wrote me to say where he lived (for he had returned home to Mahon House), I went there and found him. This opened my way to Drumnakelly; and there, I am thankful to say, a good revival began under our labours, and we saw many converted to God. Mr. Joseph Lee, of Mullyhead, with several of his family and Mr. Quin's family, came to our meetings and obtained salvation. This opened that part also; and there I met with Sergeant Taylor, who had married a pious woman of Embourn, in Berkshire. He told us at a large camp-meeting that I held at Mullyhead, that the Primitive Methodists had done much good in Berkshire and the neighbouring counties, and that there was scarcely a hamlet, village, or town but in which there was preaching by them, and a society formed, and in many places chapels had been built; and that some of those chapels were costly, valuable places. This statement encouraged our new friends, and gave a tone of greater confidence to them, especially so as the sergeant was a pious

man belonging that locality. Indications of good presented themselves in some of the other places, and the revival became pretty general through the station. The room at Portadown was so crowded, that at a sacramental service I have had to administer the elements to some of the communicants outside ; and the lovefeasts, from the many that attended, had to be held in the open air. These things stimulated the thoughts of building a chapel, and in twelve months we got liberty to do so. However, the work went on, and we opened Drumcree and the Munchis. Mr. John Russell became a valuable local preacher, and other labourers were raised up.

The General Missionary Committee granted us another preacher, a young man from Scotland, so that I was able to enter the town of Lurgan. Here I first met with Mr. Archibald M'Kinley, who told me a rather singular circumstance. The people in Lurgan were very shy at coming out, and it was circulated that I "had one only the town pump to preach to." A blacksmith said, "Well, if he will preach without seeing any one as he stands by the pump, I will hear him." He heard, and not in vain, for he turned to the Lord and found salvation.

Mr. Joseph Hibbs, our missionary to Swansea, in Wales, at his first entrance there "had scarcely any one to come near him ; but while he was preaching several heard in their houses, and found salvation." This information I had from Mr. James Bourne as a matter of encouragement, who at a District Meeting

heard Mr. Hibbs give the statement ; and this often has encouraged me when but few have come near. While reading these sheets as they go through the press, my wife informs me that as Mr. Wm. Kidd was preaching in the open air at Lisburn, her grandmother, who was great granddaughter of the proto-martyr John Rogers, as she was sitting with her window open, heard the gospel, which came with power to her heart, and led to her conversion : “ In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand ; for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good.”—Eccles. xi. 6.

The following I take from the Magazine of 1859, page 681 :—

“ Four years since I came to this country, three of them I laboured on the Lisburn mission, and we had a good increase on that station, for which I rejoice.

“ Twelve months since I came to Donaghmore and Portadown station. My predecessor left the station in an improving condition. This mission requires much labour ; the journeys are long ; from Slievenaman-by-Cons and the Three Loughs to Ballymagin is nearly fifty miles. And we have frequently sixty or seventy Irish miles walking weekly, besides visiting mostly eighty families, often preaching nine sermons, as well as meeting classes. Much of the labour has to be performed in the open air, either for want of places, or for want of places large enough to accommodate the people who are wishful to hear.

“ At Drumnakelly, Thomas Crosby, Esq., has very kindly given us a building, twenty-four feet by sixteen feet. It is neatly fitted up, and much good has been done in it. Mr. Crosby has now given his son, Thomas George, liberty to go into our itinerancy. May God remember them for good. Amen.

“ The revival movement has steadily made headway all through the year ; and I have in every round on this station seen souls brought to God. But the present rapid revival of religion in Ireland has done wonders in all the churches. Many clergymen testify of their now having become new creatures ; so that I have not now to battle with street preaching and processioning nearly alone, but the clergy of the Established Church and the Presbyterian congregations take the streets, lanes, and fields ; so do our Wesleyan brethren, and not in vain.

“ The work made its appearance in our Donaghmore chapel the last Sabbath Bro. Taylor was there, and four were stricken. He remained several days over his time to help on the revival. Bro. George Nairn, my present colleague, came ten days before his time, at my request, and assisted me at a street meeting on the day of his landing in Ireland, with good effect.

“ July 3rd.—We held a camp meeting at Knock. Mr. Stephen Gladwin, my son-in-law, from Darlington circuit, being over here on a visit to us, kindly helped us, and preached several sermons at Knock ; souls were saved, and great good done. The Lord’s name be praised.

“Sunday, July 17th.—We held an afternoon camp meeting at Ballina-cor, and six or seven persons found salvation.

“July 24th.—The camp meeting services at Donaghmore were much owned of the Lord, and great good was done ; the Bros. Kidds, M’Connells, Wilson, and others laboured well. The services here have frequently been held till past midnight ; and, in some instances, the people have had to be carried home in carts. Mr. Gladwin was much owned of the Lord in this place, as well as at Knock and Portadown. His singing gave a very vivid influence, and many were saved at meetings he held. I was thankful for this.

“Monday, July 25th.—I preached in the open air at Drumnakelly and Portadown. At the latter place Bros. Nairn and Crosbie had begun the service. I was glad to learn one hardened sinner was cut to the heart ; he had come to the town on business from some distance.

“July 26th.—At Ballyhannon. We had service in the open air ; while I was praying, just before sermon, as I thought, a woman ‘was stricken,’ and cried for mercy, then another, and others, until Bros. Kingsboro, Urwin, and Bulla thought I must not think of preaching. So this was set aside, and the praying went on until past ten o’clock : five or six were saved. The work has gone on here all the week.

“July 27th.—We had the mightiest meeting I have seen in Ireland. During the sermon one was stricken

to the ground, then another, and a third, until the cry became general ; so I gave up preaching, and praying began. A respectable farmer of another denomination was advising me, in an after stage of the meeting, not to preach so loudly, and telling me of other ministers who were more mild. Just at this time several men were hearing, from a distant side of the congregation, a fine, tall young man screeching at the top of his voice in great agony. My adviser said, ‘Why, that’s our Lewis!’ And so it was. At this the father himself turned pale, and said no more to me than on loud preaching. They carried the young man into a back room, and laid him on the floor ; he lay nearly two hours, and then suddenly sprang up, and shouted, ‘God has pardoned all my sins ; and if you will come to Jesus he will pardon you.’ About twenty were stricken, and all received peace except one, who got comfort the next day. I think nearly twenty more were converted in the ordinary way, viz., without being stricken. It was two o’clock in the morning before I could get the meeting broken up at Miss Neal’s.

“July 28th.—I preached in the open air at Lavaghrey, and eight were brought to the Lord ; the struggle was mighty. Bro. Kingsboro preached here last Monday, and several were stricken. This evening, after ten o’clock, a boy came and told me there were a thousand people at or near Knock, and they could not get them dismissed ; Bros. Patton, Black, Cluelow and M’Cain had nearly lost their voices, the work seemed

so great. I hastened over about a mile and a half, and helped until past two o'clock. Much good was the result.

"July 29th and 30th.—Held service in the open air, and several were saved.

"July 31st.—Three sermons in the open air, and a lovefeast and one sermon indoors; two stricken, and five converted; nine joined society.

"I am glad to hear our brethren are doing well at Lisburn and Belfast. O that the whole world may be brought under this great revival!

"THOMAS RUSSELL."

Also, at Portadown, Richhill, Bracka, Duck-street, and other places, the Lord's arm was made bare, and many were stricken, and many saved. At one camp-meeting in Mr. Moor's field at Portadown, before the general revival began, I saw twelve souls brought to the Lord, several of whom became useful.

I felt much at a camp-meeting revival service at Donaghmore, with Messrs. Whitfield and Booth, who rendered me great help, especially as the former was praying over his son William, who then obtained salvation, and he is now a powerful local preacher in Dublin, and wants a missionary to be sent there.

But now when the revival became so general, other churches, with their leaders and ministers, took hold of the power, and they had great ingatherings; but I told one minister there was a danger of their counting too fast, that I had seen many revivals, but always found

it prudent to be cautious in numbering. One third in a great revival; one half in a steady revival; and three-fourths in an even revival, I found might be far enough to go in numbering the people, at least for several quarters. Mr. James Bourne told me when missioning Brown Edge, "that one-third in the revival there, counted the first quarter would be as well." After all my caution, the new converts by many were fully counted, and then afterwards they had to count backwards, which was a cause of sorrow to them, and grief at their annual assemblies or conferences.

However, the work with us stood fully as well as I expected; and indeed steadily kept its ground constantly on the increase. Necessity was on us to build in Portadown; I showed Mr. Lupton two sites; he chose Mary-street, so I closed in with Mr. Moor's proposal as directed. After getting sanction I made arrangements for building; Mr. Wright assisted me much, and the work went on. Mr. Patton guided the masons, and Mr. Johnston gave me some insight in the work; so that we proceeded the year after the great revival, as we had only then obtained liberty. The chapel is forty-three feet long, and thirty-three feet wide, and eighteen feet high. Mr. W. Antliff said the building of that chapel was a praiseworthy act; so did Mr. Austin and the preparatory District Meeting that assembled therein. We raised above £200 at the time, borrowed £120 on ten years certainty, and the remaining debts stood until two years ago, when I went over,

and in three weeks in the depth of winter, begged £60 to clear off outstanding debts, which was a great effort then to make. I pray God reward all who assisted us in that great undertaking. We also raised for Donaghmore before I left that side money enough to put pews into the chapel, and to put the property into good order ; but we were much indebted to Master Joseph Marshall, of Tully Murry House, for this help. That chapel now is nicely furnished, and looks well.

I saw a necessity of building at Knock as a chapel was needed on account of our having three or four preaching places within one mile circle, and several classes in the locality ; also, at Drumnakelly, where Mr. Crosbie would have assisted us to get land in a good situation ; and at Lurgan. All these things were pressing on me ; and, had I stayed in Ireland, I believe I should have got through with them ; but I had to leave. Mr. Bernard Kenny offered himself to our ministry, and I sent his application to Mr. Lupton, and he was taken out and became useful. Since then he has gone to Australia as a missionary. At the dividing of Donaghmore and Portadown stations there was only half a preacher's labour on the Donaghmore side, and the labours of three preachers and a half on Portadown side ; but Mr. Lawley with a colleague took the Donaghmore side with the hope of doing more for Newry and enlarging their borders. An extra preacher was taken out, and we were to have had four preachers at Portadown ; but in consequence of

Mr. Stroud wanting an additional preacher for Belfast, Mr. Rayner was detained there ; so we were only three, though four stood on the Minutes for us ; and Mr Moseley, one of my colleagues, was taken very ill, and had to return home. But afterwards Mr. Baxter and Mr. McKinley were taken out, though it was near March before we could get all righted ; but I found Mr. Nullis a valuable colleague, and he laboured hard, and was very much esteemed.

We had several protracted camp meetings ; the first at Portadown was held in Mahon Wood, by permission of Mr. Crosbie. It lasted fourteen days ; and there were tents, so that distant comers slept in the wood all night. They brought their camp equipage with them, and there they cooked their food ; some had come a hundred miles to this camp meeting. A Mr. Greaves, from the United States Episcopal Conference, had set this affair agoing ; and I was glad to see our Wesleyan brethren coming out so bravely. So I took hold with them, and was mostly there in a morning by six o'clock, stayed until afternoon, then went off invariably to my appointments ; and often in returning home at ten o'clock at night, was highly delighted at hearing the singing in the wood when above a mile away, or meeting groups of pious people processioning in true Primitive style, for they had learned this of us in our revival the year before THE revival began, and now it was fully carried out by pious people of all denominations.

The incessant rain for some days made the ground wet, but a spirit of perseverance was clearly seen in the Irish ladies, who on other occasions would be in their beautiful mansions or riding in their carriages, yet were now seen standing ankle deep in mud, listening with all earnestness to the word of life.

On one of these rainy days there were nearly three thousand people, one-third of whom were crowded in their tents holding services, and about two thousand at the preaching stand. The rain descended like a flood; a thousand umbrellas were soon put up; but the minister next to speak could not manage it. All seemed at a standstill. I felt for the whole concern, and now saw that I had better preach; so took Acts xvii. 30, 31, and devoted my whole energy as I described the judgment at the last day. The word ran; many were deeply affected. All certainly was very solemn, as the torrents of rain from the thundering and lightning clouds rushed through the great high trees, which creaked and bent to the terrible storm. But I felt the power of God on me while preaching the word of life, and many wept. The Messrs. Shillingtons, Robbs, Pauls, Johnston, Montgomery, and others, made good provision, and laboured hard at these memorable camp services. The last general camp meeting I was at was Enniskillen, where Dr. and Mrs. Palmer, of America, attended. People from all parts of Ireland were there; and I had invitations for Dublin, Dungannon, Armagh, and other parts of the

country. I felt much for Sligo, and wished to see that town. Several wished me to take an extensive course of missioning through all the provinces, as they said they were sure my way would open, and they would guarantee my support. But no ; I did not go into the ministry for support, nor enter the priests' office that I might thereby be able to eat a piece of bread. I was a regular Primitive Methodist travelling preacher, and wished to keep my station, for I loved the house of my fathers. My last sermon at that camp meeting was delivered in the presence of a great crowd, from Lam. i. 12 : "Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? Behold and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me, wherewith the Lord hath afflicted me in the day of his fierce anger." I noticed : 1. Jeremiah's experience at the sight of the ruins of Jerusalem. 2. The sufferings of our Lord on Calvary for a ruined world, and to procure our salvation by his sacrificial death. Then, 3. The baptism on the church ; and the church's duty to strive for the eternal welfare of the human race.

There was a gracious influence, and many wept, some to loud sobbing, while I was preaching. After the sermon, a very general course of prayer began. There were about thirty ministers present ; and Dr. and Mrs. Palmer sung in power. All laboured hard and well, and about twenty souls that night obtained salvation. Glory be to God !

My time was up, and my daughter with others left

the camp early in the morning. Bro. Nullis accompanied us to the banks of Lough Erne, and for some time he lingered on the shore ; when we were part way across he called out, " Bro. Russell, PRAY FOR ME." We did not see each other for years after ; he has since gone to glory.

The midsummer of 1862 approached. The labour had been great during the time of building Portadown chapel : I bought the materials and hired the men to do the work. My daily reading and writing had to be done from four to six a.m. ; then I had to meet the men (with Mr. Wright) at the works as they came to their labour ; about three o'clock I started for my appointments, varying from four to six miles, and I returned by eleven p.m.

This kind of labour lay on me for about three months ; begging daily at all my leisure time for money to pay the wages ; and, through mercy, I don't remember that any workman ever had to stop one single hour for his money, and I often gave them a little over. One Catholic man said, " I would rather work for Mr. Russell than any man, either priest or gentleman, for he so cheerfully pays us, and tells us good things."

But such incessant labour took hold of my system, and I feared for life's continuance. One morning, coming from Mourn Mountains about six o'clock (I had then walked five miles), a pain struck me right into the small of my back, and I could not walk,

but lay down by the roadside very ill as the sun was rising. After a little rest I made a further effort, and seeing a cart, I got a lift. The driver sympathised with me, and began to talk cheerfully, and showed me the house where he said John O'Neil was born ; and told me of his giantlike powers, "that if he only weightily laid his hands on a man, he would be sure to die, as the serpents did when St. Patrick put his rod on them, or banished them out of the country." With great difficulty I got through that journey, as I did many another of twenty miles, which I often walked, by Ballycashon from Slievenamon to Bessbrook, where my daughter Elizabeth lived, and had a school under the patronage of John Grub Richardson, Esq., a member of the Society of Friends ; and where Elizabeth had commenced a Sunday-school, which now numbers many scores of children and young people of all persuasions ; and where now her husband, Mr. William Hobson, together with Mr. Harris, the chief manager, and other managers, feel a delight in training the juveniles of this newly risen town of between three and four thousand inhabitants, all domiciled like families in first-class English manufactories. I hardly knew which to admire the most—Bessbrook and its spacious mills, in Ireland ; or Saltaire and its great factory, not far from my friends, Messrs. Fletcher and Baron, of Silsden, in Yorkshire. Mr. Richardson has just purchased a long tract of country, the Camlough Mountains, to secure the waters of the Lough for the benefit

of his mill operations. The cost, I think I understood the owner to say, was £95,000.

Seldom would this kind Friend let me walk my journeys ; for at any time when he overtook me going along the road he gave me a ride in his carriage, or he would even send his saddlehorse and footman with me ; also Mr. Wakefield and other Friends, and indeed friends of other churches, would kindly help me. So that now, instead of Ireland being in my mind as “a transport station,” I looked on it as a colony of first-class order.

But then, again, as my children had formed matrimonial acquaintances in Ireland very creditably, it was a pain for me to be separated from them. So that though I went to Ireland with reluctance, I left it with regret ; and particularly so as I had seen much good done, by many being brought to the knowledge of the truth ; and our society was nearly doubled in numbers to what it was when I went there seven years before.

I understood that three generations back, there was one man, a Mr. Richardson, who had three sons ; these had families, and two cousins of them in succession to each other represented the borough of Lisburn in parliament. I also heard of one of the family whom the Queen would have knighted ; but Friends don't value titles. There are now several very wealthy families of the Richardsons living at or near Lisburn, and they have done much towards providing labour in

their mills for the working people, besides the gigantic concerns at Bessbrook and other places, thus giving great energy to business, and finding work for thousands of the Irish population in the linen trade.

In addition to Friends being enterprising, other Irish Protestant gentlemen are pursuing the like advantage. John M'Masters, Esq., and Co., at Gilford have a very large establishment, and numbers more in other places. So that Louis Crommelin and the Protestant refugees of France and other countries have done much for the sister nation in establishing trade and manufacture. I always loved to hear the rattle of the weaver's shuttle, and see the people in their clean, nice working attire, especially the thousands at Bessbrook.

The country people always liked the week-night services during the winter at sunset, which gave me a good opportunity to hold a second service the same night in the town on my return home.

PART XVI.

BUT I had to leave the land of my daughter Elizabeth's adoption, and Mr. Riddell accompanied us to the ship ; and I for a time bade the Irish shores adieu, leaving the same two children behind that I first took there, the elder for teaching, and the younger for learning ; and Hannah accompanied me to Grassington, my station for the coming year. The first thing that

met me was, "Notice," that the money affair of Hebden chapel was lodged in the hands of a lawyer, and "that it must be paid;" and there were none able to meet it, for all were poor indeed. I hastened off to Bolton Abbey, and found the rightful owner, and saw that the debt stood at nine pounds more than the few friends we had said it was. Then the same day I hastened off to Skipton, saw the solicitor, and stopped proceedings; then walked on nine miles more to Grassington; but was so weary when I got to bed that I could not sleep. I had often had head-ache and heart-ache, but I never had leg-ache before that night; I lay two hours before I could get to sleep. However, I got all settled after some weeks' toil, by Mr. Richard Ibbotson lending the required sum that Hebden chapel needed, which was £85. But the affair of Hebden had not been long finished before the mortgagee for Grassington chapel called his money in, £300. Messrs. J. Fletcher and George Baron very kindly promised help if we could get all settled; so the money was brought down to £205, and this became the mortgaged sum, and a new trust was formed. I was thankful for the help of our Silsden friends in this particular.

Directly almost on Grassington getting on its feet, Barden chapel money was called in. There was £260 on a small chapel with a dwelling-house under it, and the foundations were saturated with springs, so that the house floor was often covered with water. The

members told Mr. Fletcher the state it was in, and that it was untenable ; he said, "Tell Mr. Russell that he must see to it." And at once I consulted Mr. Wall, and he believed the way would open ; so I got Mr. Walton to bring us some drainage tiles from Skipton, and our friends gave much labour, and dug out to the back wall, where was water pent up, and no way out for it. But we got a clear passage ; and at the cost of nearly £20 made the whole tenantable. I laid the whole affair before the society, and they appointed me to try to get all settled. This I strove hard for, and formed a new trust ; and by the help of the mortgagee, Mr. Wm. Clarkson, and our Silsden friends, and the General Chapel Fund Committee, we got the debt down to £65, which two of our friends kindly lent on notes of hand ; so that this long and hard struggle, which gave me a great deal of extra toil, sometimes with bleeding and blistered feet, was all settled, and the house was made a comfortable residence, and the chapel a respectable place, and some good was done. Bro. Broadley, with others, assisted.

When the Rev. Charles Proctor travelled in this station, Mr. Swale took a farm at Starbotton, eight miles above Grassington. Our brother followed up after this friend, and missioned there ; but as he had to go through Kettlewell, an ancient market-town, he missioned that place also, and a society was formed, and precious souls were saved. Our people had been often shifted from house to house, and they had frequently been tempted to give the place up. But on Mr. Wethereld

having taken a farm, he let them have a granary or small loft, and we had many a powerful time, and souls saved there. Glory be to God.

But they had long desired to get a chapel, only the property in general was so situated that no site could be procured. However, after I had got partly through the old chapel cases, as I was one day at Kettlewell, wondering that no land could be got, I saw an old ruin in the centre of the town; I inquired after its owner, and was told it was Mr. Wiseman, of Burnley. I at once applied to Mr. Gaukrodger, and he took a letter to Mr. W., in which I said, "If you will give us land we will build a chapel." This offer he at once accepted, on condition that it was built under three years. I was now coming on my third year, so I had to be in earnest, or leave the work undone. The whole was set about, and Mr. Proctor lent us £80, the rest was begged; and so we built as beautiful a chapel as any of the size in all those parts. It is twenty-six feet by twenty-three feet, and fourteen feet high, besides room under, in all twenty-three feet from the foundation to the ceiling. But this caused me very much labour in an extra way to my regular ministerial work.

Mr. William Garrett, a most valuable, pious leader and local preacher came from Ireland, he was converted to God under the labours of our brethren above twenty years since. He maintained a good course, was highly esteemed, not only by our own friends, but in all the churches.

He came to Keighley, in Yorkshire, to better his circumstances ; and, also, for the benefit of his family. For some time all seemed to do well, his excellent wife and family came over, and all went on prosperously. Alas ! our brother sickened and died ; but he finished his course with joy. Bro. and Sis. Kingsboro too came from the Portadown station to Keighley, and told me of the good progress of Bros. M'Cann and Muglavery, Mr. Dickey and others also pressing on for heaven.

In addition to Wharfedale, Mr. Lupton wrote me that I had to take to Settle in Ribblesdale, and this had to be attended to at once ; and in time we had Mr. Baxter for that side. But the journeyings were severe in winter. My colleague got once so far bewildered on Nollfell, near Malham Tarn, that hours had to be wandered away before he could get his right track. I suppose this must have been the time that he walked nearly one hundred miles in eight days.

PART XVII.

THE following account I have before me in writing of one of my own journeys :—

“ Dec. 3rd, 1864.—I came by the mail coach to Kilnsey Rocks, about two miles east of Kettlewell, on the banks of the river Wharfe. I then went up the Arncliffe Dale, where I got lunch at a gentleman's

house, who had given me ten shillings for Kettlewell chapel. I hastened on to Litton, and then to Foxup, and here I seemed nearly fell-bound ; as it seemed from Foxup a heap of mountains all ahead and either side, and the river had swollen to a flood, and I had to creep along a ledge of rocks so as to escape the stream up the foot of the south-west fell. It was then three o'clock. I asked a farmer the road ; but he said that many had been lost on those moors, and it was a dangerous way. However, I asked him to direct me to the 'Top,' which was the farm-house I wanted to go to, where Mr. Parker lived. After other cautions, he did so ; and he pointed me the direct line of the house with his long staff, and I then took my aim by the course the wind blew, as this was now my only guide. Though there was a great mist, I ventured and belted the fell. I had a blind track for half a mile, but noticed the footprints of a large horse, which I could trace for near a mile, and was then fairly on the trackless and noted Penygant, a parallel mountain to Pendlehill, which is in Lancashire, of which it is said by these mountaineers, 'When Penygant and Pendlehill do meet, the world will be at an end.' I was on the north side of the Penygant, and had to cross the floods as best I could, for there had been much rain, and now the mist was very thick. The long grass and ling soon wet my feet and legs to above the knees, and the thick mist and now and then heavy showers soon completely drenched me ; and by

four o'clock I lost all trace of path or road, and now had fell walk to the full. But I knew Penygant, the famous lowering mountain, was to my left, or due south, and my friend's house lay on the north-west side; so though knee deep in fern, ling, and long grass, I went on my dreary way, and I felt assured the wind had not changed; but I now and then plunged my foot in a water hole below the surface of moss or bog; yet I kept in the right direction, until at length by five o'clock I got to a lane, or rather walled-in enclosure, and some symptoms of an inhabited country appeared; I also saw some fir trees. But it was so dark with mist, though the moon was up, I could scarcely see my watch, but the current of air full in my face was my guide; and on I went, passing many a deep ravine where the wild mountain torrents rolled down; and by half-past five I reached a house, and was glad once more to hear a human voice. I went in and prayed with them, and asked for a drink of water; they gave me a cup of tea, which was refreshing, and directed me the road for the next two miles, and I got to the house I wanted before eight o'clock. I then found that I had been about one mile off when I entered the lane two hours before; only that even those who tolerably knew the road could scarcely have found it in the dark without great danger of being lost or cast away in some dangerous pit or bog. So I felt thankful that I had safely arrived, and they soon gave me some refreshment. After I had had worship with them,

they put on a little more firing, and I dried my clothes one by one as fast as I could, and by midnight all were moderately ready for morning, and I then went to bed.

“Sunday, Dec. 4th.—After family prayer, reading the Scriptures, and giving them an exhortation, I walked eight miles by ten o’clock, and preached; then one mile to Settle, and preached at half-past two and at six in the chapel, besides speaking to the Sunday scholars, and visiting a few families between the public services.”

Another time going to Settle, I went by Airton; but when six miles off, the snow had fallen so thick, and it had become so deep and in drifts, that at times I could scarcely keep the road, and when reaching the gate going into the open fell, the storm was so severe that I could scarcely breathe, and had to shelter knee deep in snow for some time behind a wall; but yet in three hours I walked the six miles. But Mr. and Mrs. Graham, and the few friends we had in Settle, were kind, which seemed to make amends; and also Mr. and Mrs. Caygill, who were Friends, always received me kindly. Invariably when my work was done on the Settle side, or any other part, I made the best and quickest of my way back to Grassington, sometimes over night, if I finished on a Sabbath-day, or started two or three hours before daylight the next morning; and at times I was on the summit of those high tops near Malham Tarn before the break of day, that I might get home to breakfast. The distances I had to

walk from Ribbledale to Wharfedale varied from thirteen to eighteen miles, as the case might be, according to the road I went. But it generally took me five or sometimes six hours to get over this journey.

On one of these return journeys my daughter Hannah was with me, and we had to come to Starbotton. A friend accompanied us five miles to direct us the nearest way, and then showed us what course to take; but there were so many blind tracks that we both seemed at a loss which would be the right one. I said, "Let us kneel and pray for the Lord to guide us;" and we did so. Then rising up, I felt in my heart drawn to leave a deep dale to our right, and so found we were not wrong, but we came direct down on Arncliffe. I then knew our whereabouts; but to have gone round would have been about seven miles; but over a high fell it was only half way, so we took the nearer. The ascent was very steep for about a mile and a half, and when a little over the top the descent is about the same distance. But soon we had to face a wood; I tried for a track, but could not find any, so my daughter advised that we should go through the wood. I took off my topcoat, and she put it on, to save her own clothes from the thick brushwood, briars and thorns, which were very thick, growing out of the cliffs of these nearly perpendicular rocks. Sometimes I bent the slender trees down, and so we slung ourselves down as best we could, and in half an hour got three-quarters of a mile; then, by the help of

a hedgestake, we each sustained ourselves down the next descent of this terrible road, glad enough in two hours to reach our place and have a good meeting with Mr. Harrison, which made amends for all.

But though dreary in winter and stormy wet weather, yet when calm in summer there was a pleasure in travelling these long journeys ; and Mr. and Mrs. Parker, with Mrs. Walton, Mr. Harker, Hardacre Wiseman, and other friends, showed me kindness.

My daughter Elizabeth and her husband being over from Ireland, we had a day's comfort together at Grassington ; but having heard that I had to go to Settle to preach on the Sabbath, William offered to go with me. So, on Saturday, May 27th, 1865, at noon we set out and went through Threshfield, over Boss-moor, Bordsley-moor, and to Gordale Scarr, which is supposed to be one of the grandest sights in England.

Going off the high road, and turning to the dell for nearly a quarter of a mile, one seems to be coming to the breast of a surrounding mountain ; but it requires one to go round the corner to get the great sight, which appears to have been rent by some terrible convulsion of nature. Here one enters a kind of amphitheatre, perhaps six hundred feet in circumference. On the far side is a most beautiful fall of water, rolling down the face of the rocks, dashing amongst the broken crags with terrific impetuosity, and through a hole or tremendous chasm, through which we can see the sky, but we cannot climb, because of the overhanging cliffs.

From the bed of the stream to the top is said to be three hundred feet. I think such a sight I never beheld : thousands of tons of limestone overhanging, and this too the greater part of the way round. I felt almost as solemn as I did the first time I stood under the Clifton Cliffs, at Bristol, as we were about to sail down the river Avon for Cornwall.

Now while in Gordale I sat on a prominence to rest, and sung—

“ Rock of Ages ! cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee.”

William took off his hat, and joined me ; it was a solemn time. I may remark, the stream which issues out at the foot of Gordale Scarr from a subterraneous passage, joined by the stream from above, is said by some to be the commencement of the river Aire ; but others think the stream from the foot of Malham Cove is the original source ; however, in little less than a mile they both meet, and form one beautiful stream, which runs down a fine valley to Airton. Malham Cove is like a fender, stretching a quarter of a mile, and for nearly three hundred feet it is almost perpendicular. At Malham Cove William fully enjoyed his leaps over the streamlets, as he was desirous to go round and be acquainted with the whole scenery. There is another sight close by, viz., Janet's Cove. It has a low entrance ; but when within you find it spacious, with a beautiful waterfall teeming twenty feet over a fine level limestone rock, like soft silken robes ;

and this third grandeur of nature seemed almost as enrapturing as the two others.

We went on to Airton, and I held a service with a few friends; and then went to Settle, where I held three services on the Sabbath, and William spoke to the children in the school. We returned home over the mountains, and I had the opportunity at near ten at night, of showing him the entrance of part of the stream running into the ground, where we listened to the hollow sound as the water rolled through the subterraneous passage to the coves just mentioned. We reached home before one o'clock on the Monday morning, thankful for preserving mercy.

PART XVIII.

AFTER adjusting my concerns, and seeing to the station work, I went with my children to Shildon to see Ann and her family. We went through Bolton Woods and on to Bradford, where I saw two fine portraits of Mr. Hugh Bourne and Mr. Clowes at Mr. Johnson's. I suggested the idea of Mr. James Bourne being added to make a trio. Applying to the Rev. Robert Smith, Mr. Johnson obtained the loan of a fine portrait; so now we have the three hanging on our walls, and they are indeed thoroughly life-like, as I knew our fathers looked forty years ago. We enjoyed our journey to Shildon. But on Saturday afternoon we

had to part ; both families now numbered eleven. I thought of Jacob's saying, "I passed over this Jordan with my staff, but now I am become two bands." I thought of my first crossing the Tees alone in 1849, when my children were all young ; now, Hannah and her husband were gone to Australia, and I felt solemn for them, as I knew my brother Elijah died there after a few days' illness. About the time that my brother died, I dreamed that I saw him, and thought he looked well, and that I asked him if he was happy, and he said, "Happy," turning his face aside with a smile. As I thought of these things, I felt still more deeply serious.

The same evening I went on to Richmond, and after three hours' sleep rose on Sunday at two a.m., walked fifteen miles into Coverdale before I took any refreshment ; and calling at a farmhouse, I asked if they were going to Horsehouse camp meeting. They asked, "Have you had your breakfast?" I said, "I have come from Richmond." This at once stimulated them to hurry me a cup of coffee ; then on I went, and found our friends had begun a prayer meeting in the chapel. I advised at once to go to the camp ground ; so, after processioning the village, I helped through the forenoon service ; and while I was preaching, Bros. Chapman and Simpson arrived from Grassington ; and Mr. Clarke sent me three miles in his conveyance to the foot of Whernside, one of the highest mountains in Yorkshire. I then sent the conveyance back, and walked five miles over to Kettlewell, where I was

planned, and had good services both afternoon and night, and the new chapel was well filled.

During my station at Grassington, I went to Scotter to their missionary anniversaries. As I had to stay a night in Hull, I went to Thornton-street fellowship meeting ; many pious people were present, and spoke well. Mr. G. Lamb saw me, and left the meeting in my hands, as he had to go to a trustees' meeting for Spring Bank chapel. While in that service, Mr. John Dale, a railway guard, a relative of Mr. Clowes, recognised me as having heard me preach on the borders of Cheshire twenty-five years before, and we had a happy meeting, especially was it so to me in this strange place ; and he kindly invited me home with him. At Scotter and Kirton I saw Messrs. Bywater and Sanderson, and we had good services through the week. They have very good chapels. The preachers were doing well.

I also had a good course of services in different circuits in Leeds district, and was much pleased to see Bros. Rodwell, Huscroft, with their families, and meet old friends ; and was glad to meet Bro. Isaac Hedges, and to see him doing so well in those powerful circuits. A few nights before going to Halifax circuit to help Bro. John Simpson at missionary meetings, I dreamed that I saw a fresh broken lily lying in the curve of a road in a cemetery ; and while there I felt very solemn at the sudden death of a very valued friend.

After three years' toil in those parts, I made ready to leave ; but this was rather too soon, for there were a few pounds of outstanding debts on Kettlewell chapel, which I was sorry to find gave my successor a little trouble ; and I heard of it pretty freely in London. But I could not help it, for the time had not arrived for extra begging to clear off these little items.

In July, 1865, I was stationed for St. Albans ; and on our way thither we called at Bemersley. But oh ! now our fathers were no more. Mr. Hugh Bourne had been gone to his rest nearly thirteen years. Mrs. James Bourne had been " a succourer of many, and of myself also," for many years, and she had been a mother in our Israel from the beginning, or even before the Standley class was formed, or the first camp meeting was held. She also held up the hands of her husband in the great camp meeting struggle, and rendered great help to her husband and brother-in-law, assisting too herself in all the Mow and Norton affairs, and through a long course of years in the camp meeting cause. After her hard day's work was done in the farmhouse and dairy, even carrying her children at times to a prayer meeting two or three miles' distance ; and thus sustaining all around her in diligent comfort. But at length she was gathered home in peace six months after her brother-in-law, and was buried in the same vault, at Englesea Brook, in Cheshire.

And now five years had gone by since Mr. James

Bourne departed this life, the supporter of the founder and a great helper in Primitive Methodism, who kept all agoing at Bemersley, where was the home for all comers and goers for upwards of half a century. Now none of this noble trio left—all are gone ; and I felt solemn as I thought of former days. But Mr. James Bourne, Jun., was glad to see me once more at Bemersley, as his sisters also were in Cheshire ; and I spent a few days with my former colleague, the Rev. Jas. Pritchard, and preached several times in his appointments in Staffordshire and Cheshire.

I was glad to see a chapel built at Harriseahead, where Mr. Bourne commenced his first mission labours ; and also, the enlarged chapel at Tunstall, which must have cost Mr. Pugh much care and labour. I preached in this beautiful, spacious building for Mr. J. Lea, who told me he had determined on a chapel near Bemersley farm, as a memorial of Mr. Bourne. This our excellent brother has lived to see accomplished at Brindley Ford ; Mr. Heath gave the land.

PART XIX.

AT Talk-o'-th'-Hill, I had some very refreshing conversation with Messrs. Alcock and James Rea, and at Englesea Brook with Bro. James Clayton, who told me of the last interview he had with Mr. James Bourne, and how very mightily the power of God rested on

them, and he further said, "I believe Mr. James Bourne was an honest, laborious, upright man, and did much good with his brother Hugh, and he had an intimate acquaintance with them nearly fifty years."

We reached our new station in time, and on reflection, I was thankful to be located on ground missioned from Shefford circuit, and in the town where Mr. Henry Higginson came to mission, and I found his name and the names of many others of our brethren were as ointment poured forth. But I soon saw several things that might be done to advantage for St. Albans chapel; for though twenty years built, it was not yet finished; and now after expending £50 on this chapel, at length it is as nice a place of worship as I could wish to be in, only a poor situation. I tried to get them a better but could not get liberty.

The Hertford side was full twelve miles from us, and I wanted Bro. George Dowson to be more at home than our going round permitted; so at length got that side made a station by itself, and I trust they will do well. Bro. Trenwith has been able to build a comfortable chapel at Goff's Oak, on that station; and Mr. Seabrook tells us they are prospering in other matters.

I found Mr. Thomas Bryant a valuable, willing colleague, and the work revived at several places, especially at Berkhamstead, where our members had been from ten to fifteen for many years. On my arrival they had only a rented room in a back yard,

through a narrow passage, and in the wet weather the road was very uncomfortable. They numbered eleven members, and raised fourteen shillings; but Mr. Dockrell having come, had given an impetus to the work; and here we have had a move, and good has been done. Then Mr. Harbourn coming, who was also a valuable local preacher, we saw a further move, insomuch that the room, nine feet by thirteen feet, would not hold the numbers who wanted to hear. Mr. Palmer, a local preacher who was here some time, urged the friends to try to get a chapel. The trial had often been made to get land, but all of no avail; until Mr. Norris, of Rickmansworth, had decided to sell, and at once I applied, and we secured an eligible site, thirty-six feet wide and one hundred and ten feet deep, in High-street, with a commanding view to the Grand Junction Canal and the London and North Western railroad. The price was £116. Our society requested that I would use every exertion to secure this desirable spot; and ultimately I succeeded, and we built a chapel forty feet by thirty feet, and twenty-three feet high. Seeing there would be a nice view of the back gable from the canal and railroad, and from a beautiful highland park and property, I thought that our name might be set to great advantage at the square of the building. The letters, two feet long each, are set in black bricks, and the rest are greyish ones; so that the name "Primitive" can be seen by the naked eye a mile off on the northern hills. The chapel is

lighted by nineteen windows, and has a turret on the top, which answers well as a ventilator; and the ceiling has sixty-four ventilators, which a boy can either shut or open with ease from the platform. The entire cost has been £550; £300 of this sum is yet owing. Mr. Penrose, with Mr. and Mrs. Ashworth and Mr. Bailey, helped us much at the foundation services.

On the south part of our station, Mr. and Mrs. Butler had come to reside at Bushey, and they told Caleb Vines, Esq., the need there was of a place of worship at Watford and Bushey; and that kind friend generously secured to the Connexion a valuable chapel in each place free of debt. One day when reconnoitering the neighbourhood, I saw a new locality, Croxley Green, with about one hundred families. They had plenty of public-houses, but no school nor any place of worship; so I resolved on something. And as Bro. James Pearce had come there from Hampshire, I consulted him, and soon obtained ground, and our friend yoked in with me, and also Mr. Revel, from Norfolk, and Mr. Foster; all became trustees, with several of our friends at Watford. Bro. Martindale was anxious for this locality; Messrs. Butler and Gibbs saw to the seat department; and a very beautiful chapel, thirty feet by twenty feet, was erected, which is an ornament to the neighbourhood; and precious souls have been converted there. A church has also been formed, and a Sunday-school established, and as

it is only one mile from Rickmansworth, and two miles from Watford, our friends came to assist.

Mr. Norris gave us great help by advice and making the affair known. The public received us kindly ; my colleague, Mr. Hadfield, plodded from house to house begging. I received three leaves from the banking books of three gentlemen, Messrs. Barnes, McMurry, and Sedgewick, of twenty pounds each ; Mrs. Worley, and Messrs. Austin and Proctor gave five pounds each ; and other friends as circumstances allowed ; so that we got above half the sum, and all the sittings in the chapel let, and Mr. Green tells me the congregation keeps up. Watford side being so comfortably situated, the Committee made them into a separate station from St. Albans, with those three chapels, having each a Sabbath-school ; and they have seventy-seven members in society. So they are a distinct station from St. Albans, as Bro. Jobling, the secretary, deemed this to be the best way ; and I trust all will go on to prosper, for there is room for extended labour.

Having often been advised by my family and friends to alter my situation in life, and having formed an acquaintance with Miss Barnsley, one who possessed every quality suitable for the wife of a Primitive Methodist minister, I gladly availed myself of the opportunity of accomplishing this desirable connection, and we were married in Newry, January 8th, 1868.

In returning we were kindly received by Messrs. Walford and Heath, at Crewe.

During our correspondence, when I was in Yorkshire, I one day received a letter from this lady saying : “ I have just read the life of John Rogers, by Joseph Lemuel Chester, published by Longman and Co., London. The author came from America to search for records of the proto-martyr of the Marian persecution. He has travelled through different countries on the continent, and all likely places in Great Britain, to get information ; and he has printed a valuable life of the great helper in the translation of the ‘ Matthew Bible.’ ” She then went on to say : “ John Rogers had a son who became a cornet of horse ; he had a son who became a captain of horse ; he had a son who was vicar-general of Clough ; and he had a daughter who was my grandmother, whose name was Hannah Barnsley.”

From another letter from Miss Barnsley, I learned that on her mother’s side she was a descendant of those worthies “ of whom the world was not worthy ”—the Huguenots of the continent, who established the Irish linen manufactory, and who maintained a good course, and numbers of whom were distinguished for their piety.

These pious connections were more endearing to me than other associations of estates or of royal descent. I love more the memory of the martyrs of Jesus, and esteem them as of a far greater value than the relationship of royalty and dignity, where there is not the fear of the Lord. The father and grandfather of Miss

Barnsley had the fear of God, and were much esteemed. Mrs. Barnsley had several brothers who held offices under government and in the army, and they all maintained a good course. I was often much delighted when this aged lady told me of the piety of her brothers and two sisters, the Misses Smith, who with herself were class-leaders, and supported Methodism in Lisburn and Donaghadee, and liberally helped the cause for many years, and helped Mary Carey and other poor but pious Methodists in Ireland.

My esteemed correspondent was brought to know the Lord in her youth, and has maintained a course of piety and usefulness for above thirty years; and now in our second year of union I am thankful to say ours is a happy home, and I have a helpmeet indeed. The increase of our station is this year ten per cent., and this too to me is a matter of thankfulness.

I may remark, that by right of descent, and by right of will, and now by right of marriage, I have a legal right of sepulture in the same grave where the best benefactor of Ireland lies; I mean Louis Crommelin, who by the linen trade gave bread to millions in that fine but poor popish inhabited country.

Last summer, as my wife had business in Dublin, she went round by Bessbrook, and in company with my daughter Charlotte and William Hobson, brought Elizabeth's only daughter to stay the winter with us, Elizabeth hoping to come about April to take her back. But ah, alas! this lovely child sickened in January;

and after six days' suffering from scarletina and bronchitis, she died February 4th, 1869, aged four years and three weeks.

She was one of the most upright, truthful, lovely, and intelligent of children I ever met with. She greatly delighted to attend our Sabbath-school and prayer meetings ; and, indeed, all the means of grace. She was always much pleased to give food to the needy. She had a firm recollection of all events at home, and especially of the names of her two brothers, Russell Benjamin and William Fulton, both younger than herself. She was especially firm on one point, that is, in ending her prayers by saying, " For the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord ;" and this point she would freely maintain when talking with her little companions about saying their prayers, and all of whom were very fond of her. I always admired her intent earnestness at asking a blessing and giving thanks at meal-times, and her great seriousness at family prayers. Her business habits, too, were of the first order, both as to her neatness and going errands ; also her care over her own little articles ; and she contemplated returning home in April, when her mother would come for her. But ah ! how was every hope disappointed ! Charlotte Elizabeth sickened ; yet we hoped from day to day she would recover. I wrote every post to her parents, and sent the doctor's opinion daily ; and, indeed, we all hoped that she would recover. But, alas ! Thursday, February 4th, at ten minutes past seven a.m.,

1869, she died. I sent off a telegram, which in three hours after the child died her parents received ; and a message was returned the same day "that her father expected to be with us the next morning." William travelled in the night across the sea from Dublin to Holyhead, and via London, and came here the next morning. I had consulted Friends as to interment, and we buried this lovely jewel in the Friends' burying ground, Sweetbriar-lane, St. Albans. This has been a drawback on our comfort, and tells us that "here we have no continuing city."



PART XX.

DURING my time here I have had the comfort of visiting stations in Berkshire and Hampshire, Buckinghamshire, and Bedfordshire, that were raised from the Shefford circuit—where I have seen children and children's children in the gospel. Some dear aged friends who helped me in my youth, and when they were young themselves, now are bending towards the grave ; but with a bright hope of our meeting in a better world.

When at Quick's Green Chapel anniversary, I was anxious for Bro. Nullis to come ; and late on Monday he arrived. I was glad to see him. When he stood upon the platform, he said, "I am going now to tell Mr. Russell what he has not heard before, that I claim

him as my spiritual grandfather ; James Holmes under Mr. Russell's labours received good, and I received good under the labours of James Holmes." This information to me was cheering.

When at the anniversary at Islington, in London, I met with Mr. David Berry, he told me that he came from Bucklesbury, in Berkshire, and that he obtained good when he was young, under the labours of our friends when we were missioning the Bradfield side of Shefford circuit. I was also thankful to meet with many others in London, who could give me similar statements. I was indeed glad to find in this great city our children in the Lord "walking in the truth" in the hurry of the world's metropolis, and the place of refuge for all nations, from which have issued the great workings of the Bible Society, giving the Holy Scriptures to all nations ; and though John Rogers was burned in Smithfield, three hundred and thirteen years ago, for the great labour he rendered in the translating the "Matthew Bible," (for it is generally concluded that this was the real offence that caused his martyrdom by the Papists), yet not far from where he (my wife's ancestor) suffered, the Bible is now issued in all languages, and is the book for all sensible people of all classes the wide world over. Also, the Tract Society, and other kindred institutions are here established ; and in particular the varied departments of the Missionary Societies which have their agents in nearly every quarter of the globe.

The Primitive Methodist Connexion has risen to what it is by dint of missionary labours ; so that of ministers it may be said, out of their toil have risen eight score thousand members ; over a quarter of a million scholars in the Sabbath-schools, and above five thousand Connexional places of worship, besides five thousand other places of worship, such as unconnected chapels, rooms, barns, cottages, &c., &c. And to keep alive this mighty move, now there are over five hundred regular ministers, fourteen thousand and a half preachers, and forty-three thousand gratuitous day-school teachers ; but there need much patience and constant toil, with prayer in abundance to keep all in its regular course of working.

PART XXI.

Good work is moving in several stations in this part of our beloved Zion, as well as in other churches. Sunday, Feb. 21st, 1869.—I left home at six o'clock in the morning, and walked ten miles of the twelve to Khamptstead, and was glad to find the Sabbath-school going well. Had a very respectable and increased congregation in the forenoon. The chapel was nearly full in the afternoon, and I had power in preaching both times. Met one of the classes, and joined another member to society. At five, preached on the deck of one of Mr. Foster's boats lying in the canal. The

captain, who is a member of our Connexion, is a very pious man, and comes from Tipton, in Staffordshire. Hundreds attended, standing on the bridge and towing path. The word was with power. A Mr. Hatton gave me five shillings towards our chapel fund. On the road to the chapel I was glad to see Thos. Read, Esq., who had given us twenty pounds for the same object. At six o'clock the chapel was crowded, as is the case every Sabbath evening. I had a fine time in opening the lovefeast, and was glad for the help of Bros. Harbour, Dockrill, Evans, and others in this great congregation; and am thankful to state three precious souls were converted to God.

Sunday, Feb. 28th.—At Bro. Aldridge's I left my colleague, Mr. B. J. Westbrook, and walked to Leyhill, where I was glad to find six teachers with nearly forty children, all finely engaged. I preached at eleven, and had a solemn time; then went to Chesham, a large market-town in Buckinghamshire. There is no Methodist society except our own in these parts, but there are four Baptist churches and one Congregational. Mr. Plato said that there should be a regular Primitive Methodist missionary here. I was glad to find from Mr. Barnes' statement that their cottage prayer meetings are well attended, and that they think they should have a chapel at Newtown. I was thankful to find several fresh members joined.

This week I have a letter from Bro. Samuel Antliff, appointing to meet me at Redbourn on Friday, March

5th, to inspect a site for a new chapel there ; also, a letter from Mr. John Wilson, of Leighton Buzzard, on the subject ; and he intends to hear Mr. Antliff preach a sermon, and to assist to make collections towards this noble object ; Mr. Wilson brings a princely donation from Mr. Palmer towards this great work of need.

It was to Redbourn the first missionary to Verulam fled when the Romans martyred Alban for receiving the man of God ; but they followed the missionary four miles to this place, and there burned him ; his blood from the stake ran into the brook, thus making the water red, and so the name Redbourn was given from that circumstance.

Here our friends came out of Berkshire, and preached under the fine tall old elm trees on the common, when they missioned this county.

During my stay here Hertford mission with fifty-five members and one chapel has been made from this station ; also Watford mission, with seventy-seven members and three chapels, has been made from St. Albans. Both the above stations have improved, and I trust will go on to prosper.

This year, 1869, St. Albans' increase is eleven per cent. We have had a gradual rise all these four years, or ever since I came here ; and we are now preparing to build a chapel by the silk mills on Redbourn common, towards which J. Palmer, Esq., and Mr. Wilson are helping nobly ; and a second in the best and most central situation in Crouchfield. In this last

place, only for Primitive Methodist labours, fifteen hundred inhabitants might have been without preaching services, or Sabbath-school tuition, or any prayer meetings amongst them. Brethren, pray for us.

My colleagues, the Revs. T. Bryant, T. Hadfield, and B. J. Westbrook, with Bros. G. Dowson and T. S. Cariss, have been useful during the time of their being in this county.

Since my coming to this station above two thousand pounds worth of chapel property has been added to the Connexion, and all is doing well. Besides our average increase of members is good, though many have passed away and landed safe in heaven.

Redbourn is a beautiful place, and here open air preaching and camp meetings have been held with very great effect. On my coming to this station, we had here fourteen members; we now have double the number. Our congregations are very large; often sixty or seventy people crowded into Mrs. Moody's cottage house, which is not seven feet high to the ceiling. Bro. Holliman, our leader, told me last night when I was there, that they have had one more added this week to society. Glory be to God.

Sickness has this Spring overtaken me, and I cannot now do as I have done. I have been obliged to ask for an helper, which I am promised—Bro. Dawe. Bro. Thomson is appointed in Bro. Westbrook's place. But I have had to get Mr. Gladwin some weeks. He brought his daughter to see us. I felt delighted to hear my

granddaughter read a chapter in the Bible at four years old.

I may now add as 1 Kings viii. 57 : “The Lord our God be with us as he was with our fathers ; let him not leave us, nor forsake us.” How solemn to me the reflection that out of the nine hundred and sixteen ministers of our Connexion, there are only two of our brethren in active service of longer standing in the work than I am, viz., Bros. Lister and Lace ; then there are four of the same year, viz., Bros. Harland, Garner Howchin, Stansfield, and Lamb, and I believe all the rest are our juniors in the ministry ; several are older and many younger on the superannuation list. How closely the messenger approaches ! In a few weeks I shall have accomplished my forty years’ itinerancy. O for being fully ready ! My only hope is in and through the sacrificial death of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ ; and that, by the assistance of the Holy Ghost, I may overcome the wicked one, and find mercy with God our heavenly Father, and finally find my way to heaven.

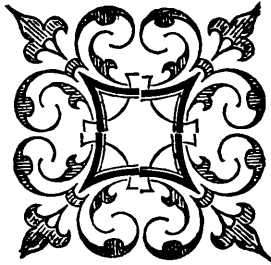
Deut. viii. 2, forcibly strikes my mind : “And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments or no.” The sixteenth verse says : “That he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end.”

THOMAS RUSSELL.

N.B.—1st. The copyright of this work is secured.

2nd. The Author begs to acknowledge his obligation to the REV. WM. ANTLIFF for editing the sheets ; and also to the REV. J. PHILLIPS, and the London District Publishing Committee, for their promptness in passing them through the Connexional Courts.

T. R.



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