

In Memoriam :

. . WILLIAM YAPP.

BELOVED AS A SERVANT OF THE LORD, AND AS A
SUCCOURER OF VERY MANY.

IN foremost ranks of life's stern battlefield,
With hands upraised the sword of truth to wield,
The Christian warrior stood in holy zeal—
To his great Captain ever true and leal.
When lo! the word of sweet command was given,
Sheathed was his sword, and he upborne to Heaven!
Yes, thither soared the disimprison'd soul,
Where victory's psalms in notes harmonious roll;
The full fruition of that life to know,
Of sacred peace sown in his heart below.
How sweet his joys, how high his portion there,
Where God's redeem'd in love's rich banquet share!
Through all his course he dwelt to JESUS near;—
His smile to see, His gracious voice to hear;
These the blest boons for which he counted dross,
The things of time, and nobly bore the cross:
And, filled with love, which Christ Himself had given,
He lived a willing sacrifice to Heaven.
Lit with a beam from God's eternal throne,
His pathway brighter and still brighter shone;
And to his memory many a grateful heart
Shall raise a richer shrine than sculptur'd art;
While Christian hearts, in noblest strains shall sing
The power of HIM from whom all graces spring.

November, 1874.

INTRODUCTION.

IN the brief space available, it is impossible to give more than a fragmentary outline of the life and labours of the beloved writer of the precious truths that are gathered in this small volume.

Only those who were privileged to *personally* know MR. WILLIAM YAPP, can have any adequate idea of the wealth of love he lavished on God's people during his long life, and the nobility of his Christian character.

Brought to the Lord in his youth, Mr. Yapp immediately yielded his body a living sacrifice to God, and the sacrifice once laid on the altar seemed never withdrawn. To the Church of God his whole life proclaimed him—"Your servant for JESUS' sake." By him *all* saints were recognised as having a claim on him; the sorrowing and the erring drew out his sympathy and his help, and many a bereaved heart has he made to sing for joy. Nor were the children forgotten; they had a large share of his tender love and care, and a sight of Mr. Yapp's kindly face coming along the road, would cause their eyes to sparkle, and their feet to go faster till they met him; and they went on their way with lighter hearts for his cheery words

and loving smile ; still a fragrant memory after more than a quarter of a century !

It was not alone his ministry, varied and precious as it was, that drew hearts everywhere to him, and caused them to look beyond the servant to the Master : it was “ the love of God shed abroad,” by word and deed, that drew and held fellow-saints in a manner those who did not personally know him can have little conception of.

For many years in *Hereford*, and subsequently in *London* and *Leominster*, Mr. Yapp took a large share in gospel work, extending the testimony to neighbouring counties: Worcester, Malvern, Ross, Ledbury, Leominster, and Ludlow were reached by horses and traps. Mr. Yapp, at one time, kept five horses in his stables for this purpose.

Breaking of bread was instituted every Lord's day morning in a large room at Mr. Yapp's house ; which, becoming too small, was enlarged, and the cost defrayed by brethren and sisters selling their silver-plate and superfluous furniture. Many of the believers connected with this movement, in which Mr. Yapp had a prominent share, had been connected with the Church of England. Gifts, which their church position had hitherto repressed, were now brought into exercise, and many laboured as evangelists, pastors, and teachers, &c.

Grace, love, and power prevailed, God was glorified in them, and many from the world were thoroughly converted.

Among these men of God it was said that, "Mr. W. Yapp was head and shoulders above anyone else in his love and self-sacrifice, ever willing to give up time, comfort, and purse, for the welfare and spiritual good of others."

Failing health compelled Mr. Yapp to leave London in 1863, and he returned to end his days on earth in the scenes of his youth, viz., in *Leominster*. And highly privileged was that little town in being permitted to have eleven years of his faithful care and loving ministry.

One of the last acts of this noble-hearted brother was to rent and furnish the *Waterloo House*, at *Leominster*, for the purpose of accommodating brethren, whom he hoped to assemble in the Lord's name for mutual prayer, counsel, and conference, on matters concerning the welfare of the Church of God. Mr. Yapp had the joy of seeing four conferences held there that year (1874). And many are alive who remember some of those first ministering brethren. Three of the chief were Messrs. H. Dyer, H. Groves, and H. Heath (familiarily known as "The Three Henrys"). Men who were "mighty in the Scriptures," and who, "being dead, yet speak." Many to-day have cause to thank God for their faithful ministry. Some of their writings may be had in other volumes of "The Leominster Library" uniform with this one.

On November 28th, 1874, the Lord called His faithful servant to His rest above. He committed

this service to his beloved wife, and how well and faithfully she has carried on this service, so dear to Mr. Yapp's heart, is too well known to need comment here. Suffice it to say, that this work for God so ably begun by Mr. Yapp, in 1874, has so grown and increased, that now, in 1901, there is scarcely any land in the wide world where the name of "The Leominster Conferences," and the names of the beloved servant of God who began, and the one who carries them on still, do not cause a thrill of joy when called to remembrance.

In the *Golden Lamp*, which for five years Mr. Yapp had edited with love and prayer, there appeared in the January issue of 1875, a brief but deeply interesting account of his last days on earth :—"In prosecuting labours of love for the Lord and His Church, illness fell upon him from which he became prostrate and sank, overcome with the much toil he had had, especially of late. His cry—'Loose me, and let me go, Lord Jesus! Take me to Thyself, Lord Jesus!' was soon answered, and his happy spirit passed into the presence of his Lord, whom so long he had loved, and whom so faithfully he had served."

"So ended a life, noble, consecrated, and devoted, having one purpose, and that CHRIST. To serve His Church was ever his highest ambition, and life, health, strength, ease, and means, each and all were laid as willing offerings on God's altar."

M. M. D.