

**Another Good Friend Gone Home.**

THE LATE HENRY DUNCAN BROWN.

WE have desired to mention in our pages about the Home-going of another devoted friend and helper, the late Henry Duncan Brown, Secretary of the Christian Colportage Association. We have known and appreciated him for many years, not only for his valiant stand, at all times for the integrity of God's Precious Word, but also for his own consistent personal testimony borne out in his life and splendid character.

Only a few days before he was obliged to cease from the service he loved so well we had the privilege of speaking with him, and there was such mellowness in his language and power in his earnest utterances, that the impression came over us, and we mentioned it to others, that he was rapidly ripening for eternity.

All the years we have known him we never once came into close touch with him without feeling that he was a true man of God. He had exalted views of Christ, of His Lordship and Deity, of His Divine attributes. We never spoke to, or with him, without having deeper convictions concerning the glories and excellences of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

But now our friend has entered into rest. His work on earth is done. He now holds higher service, for is it not written: "HIS SERVANTS SHALL SERVE HIM AND THEY SHALL SEE HIS FACE"?

By his labours in the circulation of good books, by his own notable qualifications, and, perhaps, above all by his unflinching faithfulness to the truth, he has left behind him a noble testimony for God, and we can say of him as truly as of any friend we ever knew, that "he being dead yet speaketh."

It was in the little town of Haddington, in 1841, that Henry Duncan Brown was born, and it was here that his great-grandfather, the well-known godly Dr. John Brown, writer of the self-interpreting Bible, lived and died. His uncle, also named John Brown after his grandfather, was Dr. John Brown, writer of "Rab and his Friends," a touching story that has made him famous wherever the English language is read or spoken. Very early brought to a knowledge of Christ and salvation through the atoning sacrifice on Calvary's Cross, we find him at the age of ten years troubled about the reality of his conversion, until comfort and peace came to him through the Saviour's blessed words, 'Come unto Me . . . and I will give you rest.' 'If I never came before,' he said to himself,

"I will come now," and he then and there took God at His word.

At sixteen we find him taking a cottage meeting in his native town for the old people, and ever after he was an active worker for the Lord and Master wherever he went.

At twenty years of age he came to London to work in the office of his uncle, he being a Cape merchant, and remained there until, in 1866, he went to India with the late Mr. Robert Paton, civil engineer, who had been appointed constructor of the Calcutta Waterworks. On his return to England, four years afterwards, he went to Bremen, also with Mr. Paton, for further engineering work.

It was on their return in 1873 that Mr. Paton conceived the idea of starting the Christian Colportage Society, and asked Mr. Brown for his co-operation, and after waiting upon the Lord to know His will, he accepted the post as General Secretary, and remained in the Society until his call recently to higher service in glory. Eternity alone will reveal the many among "the multitudes which no man can number" that have been brought thither, through the blessing of God, on this work, which seeks the salvation of precious souls through the voice and the books sold. Millions of God's Word alone have been sold by the colporteurs since its commencement. Mr. Brown always exercised the greatest care in the selection of the books that went out from the Society, and all had to pass his keen scrutiny, that no unsound teaching lurked within, for he was a man valiant for the truth, and believed in the old Gospel teaching.

His pen was an active one, and he has left behind him a witness for the truth in books such as "*Better than Gold*," "*Herein is Love*," "*Altogether Lovely*," etc., which already have been much blessed in leading souls to Christ.

Shortly before he passed away he had been revising a second edition of his last book, "God and Satan," the first having been sold out. This volume indicates that his mind was as vigorous and his general teaching as clear as ever.

About six years ago Mr. Brown having through years of strenuous work brought on a collapse of his strength, it was thought advisable to have a co-secretary, and the Society was happy in securing the services of Mr. Maggs, and the two, being of one spirit, worked in perfect harmony in the great work of colportage in the towns and amongst the country villages of our favoured land.

The call Home was sudden, but the faithful servant was ready, and when he knew he would

soon enter into the joy of his Lord heavenly peace and joy beamed in his countenance, and those who witnessed his last hours on earth felt it was not death, but life more abundant. All was *perfect peace*, and heavenly smiles lit up his face as he entered his Home, sweet Home.

The following is an extract of a letter written by his devoted wife, Mrs. Brown. It appeared in the Society's magazine *Tongue and Pen*, and was intended particularly for those who knew and loved their late beloved secretary:—

"When sitting up in his bed the Sunday morning before he passed away he asked me to read John xiv. to the 17th verse, and as I read his soul seemed rapt in adoration and praise.

'Wonderful, wonderful words!' he exclaimed, and then he began praising the Lord for such wonderful love and grace.

"In the afternoon he asked his children to sing some of his favourite hymns. 'The Sands of Time are sinking':—

'The sands of time are sinking,  
The dawn of heaven breaks;  
The summer morn I've sighed for,  
The fair sweet morn awakes;  
Dark, dark hath been the midnight,  
But dayspring is at hand,  
And glory, glory dwell-eth,  
In Immanuel's land.

'I've wrestled on towards heaven,  
'Gainst storm, and wind, and tide;  
Now like a weary trav'ler  
That leaneth on his guide,  
Amid the shades of ev'ning,  
While sinks life's lingering sand,  
I hail the glory dawning  
In Immanuel's land.'

"They also sung, 'O Christ, what burdens bowed Thy head,' 'Until He come,' etc., and as their voices ascended from below he tried to join in with them in his feeble way. In the evening he said, 'I have had *such* a happy day!'

"On the Tuesday when told he was seriously ill, he replied quite calmly, 'I am glad to know that, because if my condition is serious there

are some things I would like to speak about while I am able.' And then he told me he wished the books he had written might be kept in regular circulation." \*

Those who were privileged to be present at the funeral of our beloved friend in the peaceful Highgate cemetery, will not easily forget it. Many of the colporteurs who had been associated with their esteemed Secretary were there, and it was easy to perceive how keenly these faithful workers felt that they had not only lost a devoted leader, but also a personal friend. There were others there who had stood for years and years with the departed Servant of God in

his efforts to make known the simple truth; and had also been with him in many a hard fought fight on the christian battlefield. His children were there, sons and daughters who also truly love the Lord, and who, with their dear mother, are looking onward to that blessed moment when "Them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him." "Surely I come quickly, Amen. Even so, come Lord Jesus."

When the weary ones we love  
Enter on their rest above—  
Seems the earth so poor and vast?  
All our life-joy overcast?

Hush! be ev'ry murmur dumb;  
It is only "Till He come!"

We would add a final personal word about our dear friend. He was the first to encourage us when we assumed the Editorship of "THE SPRINGING WELL," and freely expressed his thankfulness for the scriptural teachings of our paper, indeed so much did he appreciate it that it was adopted by the Society as the particular monthly medium for circulation by the colporteurs. Since then many thousands have been distributed all over the land through their agency, and the Lord only knows what blessing to many has resulted.

\* We hope to give a note of them on the cover of our magazine this month.



[Photo]

[Thos. Fall, F.R.P.S., Finchley Road, N.W.]

THE LATE MR. H. D. BROWN,  
Sec. of Christian Colportage Association.