

THOMAS WHITLOCK.

SKETCH OF HIS LIFE BY REV. W. C. BEER, B. C. MINISTER.

"The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance."

WHITLOCK. — Died, at his residence, in St. Marys, Ont., on December 1st, 1875. Thomas Whitlock, Esq., aged 69 years and 5 months.

Desiring to perpetuate the memory of one who was among the first fruits of the labors of the Bible Christians, and of whom it may be truly said, "He was a good man, and feared God above many," I furnish the following brief sketch:

THOMAS WHITLOCK was the son of Richard and Mary Whitlock, and was born in the parish of Langtree, Devon, England, in the year 1806. Concerning his early life, I know comparatively little. When quite young he lived at Callacott Farm with his uncle, John Whitlock, who was a local preacher. In his house the Bible Christians used to preach, and here our departed brother, under the faithful ministry of the Word, felt himself to be a sinner, sought for mercy, and obtained the blessing of salvation by faith in Christ Jesus. He at once identified himself with the followers of Christ, and was a member of the society at Siloam, in the Shebbear Circuit. Unlike many nowadays, who when professedly converted, put forth no efforts to save others, our brother felt impelled, by the constraining love of Christ, to

"Seek the wandering souls of men," and began to labor as a local preacher, and continued to serve the Church in this capacity until the state of his health—always delicate—rendered it necessary for him to desist.

In the year 1841 he was married to Ann Whitlock, who, although of the same name, was no relation to him. In her he found a suitable companion, and as she enjoyed "like precious faith with him," they have walked together in the light of God's reconciled countenance for the last 34 years.

About 32 years ago, Bro. Whitlock emigrated to Canada, and settled in the township of Pickering, where to his great joy he found a religious home among his own people, and continued to labor as a local preacher.

Some 20 years ago he removed to St. Mary's; he has for most of the time been connected with the M. E. Church, but has maintained a strong attachment to and deep interest in the B. C. Church. For years he has been a diligent and appreciative reader of the *Observer*, and none rejoice more in the prosperity and extension of the B. C. cause, than Bro. Whitlock. Had a church been started in St. Mary's he would gladly have cast in his lot with his own people.

I have become acquainted with our departed brother during the last three years while he has been on an occasional visit to his relatives on this Circuit; and I have frequently been kindly entertained at his house. He was of genial and cheerful disposition; kind and obliging to his family; consistent in his daily walk and conversation; respected and beloved by all who knew him. He took a deep interest in the building of our new Church in Elmville, and had set his heart on being present at the opening services. Although quite poorly, he was present with us and richly enjoyed the services—no one was more delighted at the success realized. He remained in Usborne about four weeks, then returned to St. Mary's, when he rapidly sank, and on Dec. 1st exchanged mortality for life. His experience at the close was clear and satisfactory. He could say, "All is well," "I am going home," &c. His God sustained him in his final hour; his final hour brought glory to his God.

According to his request the writer buried him, and preached his funeral sermon, in the M. E. Church, St. Mary's, from Phil. i., 21, the Rev. C. Crichton, M. E. Minister assisting in the service.

Deceased leaves a widow, who is living in the hope of a happy meeting again in our Father's home above, and also nine children, two of whom have entered the path of life. May the entire family be gathered into the Ark of Safety, and finally meet their father in the home of the redeemed.

"Anchored in that port above,
On that celestial shore,
Where dashing billows never move,
Where tempests never roar."