

MARY JANE PENTLAND

Was born in Claughy, County of Down, Ireland, on the 21st of May, 1798, and died November 8th, 1878, being at the ripe age of 80 years. When about her nineteenth year, under the labors of Revs. Langtree and Hill, she experienced the great change without which none can see the kingdom of heaven, and from that time to the close of life, a period of over sixty years, she was a faithful member of the Methodist Church. What a rebuke does such a long life of consistent piety offer to those vacillating characters we sometimes meet with, who are now on the side of Christ and then on the side of the world. Our sister "having once put her hand to the plough never looked back." Her conversion was clear and satisfactory to her own mind; and having made a good start she ran the whole race.

In her twenty-third year she was married to Mr. Samuel Pentland, a man who seems to have been every way fitted to help her in spiritual things. He was a class-leader for many years, which office he continued to fill till his death. In 1823 she, with her husband, immigrated to Canada and settled in Amherst Island. While here she appears to have derived great spiritual profit from the labors of Dr. Evans and other of the early Methodist preachers, and to the close of life she delighted to speak of those seasons of grace enjoyed under their ministrations. After a residence there of twenty-one years, they moved into West Wawanosh, county of Huron, where both closed their earthly pilgrimage. Here their house became a nursery for Methodism. A few of like mind of themselves were gathered and formed into a class, of which Mr. Pentland was the leader, so that when the first preachers came into those parts they found a church in their house of some thirty members. And Methodism thus planted has continued to flourish. We have in that neighborhood a society of over a hundred members.

Our sister was left a widow for the long period of twenty-five years. During this season of loneliness Christ was her strength and stay, and the Bible her constant companion. She was a woman of quiet, consistent piety, devotedly attached to the Church of her choice, and always seeking to advance its interest. One object of her life was to lead her children to Christ; and, as we should expect from Scriptural teaching, her efforts were successful. Seven survive to mourn her loss, and they are all members of the Methodist Church, one of them a class-leader, and another recording steward.

It was my sad privilege to visit her during her sickness. I found her trusting in Christ with an unflinching faith. She was sometimes the subject of painful conflicts, but her language was, "though he slay me yet will I trust in Him." Gradually she sank to life's last verge without much physical pain, until at last without a struggle or a groan she fell asleep in the arms of Jesus.

R. D.