

# *The* COVENANTER WITNESS



*A Journal Devoted to Exalting Christ the Saviour King*

VOLUME XXIII

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1939

NUMBER 7

## *A Thought for Each Day*

Sabbath, August 27

But none saith, Where is God my maker, who giveth songs in the night? Job 35:10.

He giveth songs in the night, that is, He brings the richest blessings through pain. Thanksgiving has a sure foundation when we can sing, as did Paul and Silas, in the blackness of bondage.—Floyd W. Tomkins.

Monday, August 28

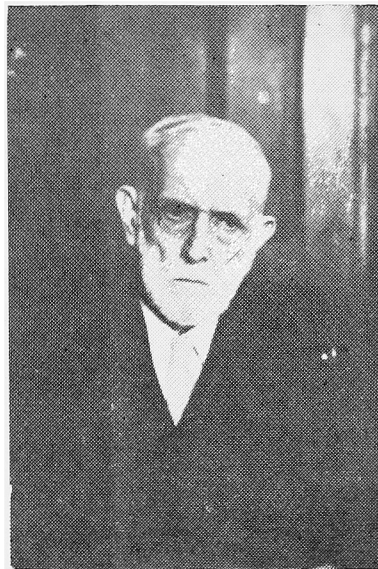
At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I . . . will pray the Father for you. John 16:26.

The Lord Jesus is still praying. He ever lives to pray us through. Thirty years of living, three years of serving, one tremendous act of dying, nineteen hundred years of praying! What an emphasis on prayer!—S. D. Gordon.

Tuesday, August 29

I have called you friends. John 15:15.

Would He have chosen you to tell you the secrets of His heart? And when Jesus, after a night of prayer over their names, chose twelve, would we have had your name in our New Testament among them?—Alexander Whyte.



THE LATE REV.  
JAMES ROSS LATIMER

Pastor of Londonderry and North Salem congregation, 1880-1882; Hebron congregation, 1882-1891; Rose Point congregation, 1892-1906; Lochiel, 1907-1927; called home July 14, 1939

THE LATE  
MRS. J. R. LATIMER

Called home  
June 25, 1939



student of the Bible and he loved it. When I called to see him he was usually reading it or some book connected with it. But that is God's instrument of salvation. He preached fearlessly what he found there. On one occasion a sermon against secret societies roused the resentment of one of his adherents but when the man was dying he sent for Mr. Latimer in the middle of a winter night.

He had the trust of leadership among God's people. The interpreting of events and of God's Providence, guiding the development of prayer, ministering to the sick, warning the careless, comforting the dying and burying the dead, meeting issues of public morals through more than a generation—these were his tasks which he had to meet by the grace of His God. They brought him growth and appreciation of the riches of Christ and these were part of his reward.

"Take heed to thyself and to thy teaching. Continue in these things; for in doing this thou shalt save both thyself and them that hear thee." Under this promise he worked. In its comfort he laid away a son years ago, and his wife a short three weeks before he died. In its promise he lived as one whose name was written in heaven. But the promise included the salvation of his hearers. One who used to hear him regularly, speaks of the frequency of his presentation of the way of salvation; like the ancient priests he had found an offering for his own sins and one for the sins of others. In the better land he shall have the joy not only of meeting sometime his own children who follow him in the faith but of meeting now the many to whom he ministered the saving bread of life.

Some count their rewards in salary, some in power. He found his in the ministering of salvation and in the building of the Kingdom of Christ.

## Mr. Latimer as a Preacher

REV. F. M. FOSTER, PH.D.

The Rev. James Ross Latimer was born near Bloomington, Indiana, July 14, 1851. He was received up into glory July 1939. He was trained in a godly home in piety, in the Psalms, in the Catechisms—note the *plural*. The Larger to that family as the Shorter. His pastor was the Rev. D. J. Shaw, a quiet unassuming minister, whose life was a rich blessing. Mr. Latimer grew into manhood in such surroundings. He graduated from the University of Indiana in the class of 1873; and was Validictorian—which means Mr. Latimer was a thorough student. His Seminary Course was under three great men—Dr. Thomas Sproull; Dr. J. R. W. Sloane, Dr. D. B. Willson. He was licensed by Lakes Presbytery (now Ohio) April 10, 1878. He was ordained by Ohio Presbytery and installed pastor of Londonderry congregation May 19, 1880. He was installed pastor of North Salem congregation, uniting the two pastorates, October 10, 1880. Two years later he was called to Hebron congregation and was installed August 12, 1882. May 18, 1892 he was installed pastor of Slippery Rock congregation. He accepted a call from Lochiel 1907 and was installed pastor on July 1 of that year. Here he labored and preached

and prayed for twenty years and blessings descended upon congregation and community as dew upon Mount Hermon. Not strong, he demitted his charge and retired to Olathe.

Though, in his last years, his life was not on the high field, yet his work was no less important. He was praying for God's work in general, and for the Covenanter Zion in particular. As Moses interceded, so Mr. Latimer interceded for the work in the Home Land and for the work "where they sit in darkness and have no light."

Men cannot appraise a life. God only can. In some their works go before, shouted at times by themselves. In some their works follow after. God gives no heed to man's appraisal. He writes the absolutely just record. However there are some things in a good man's life which may be mentioned as an aid.

Mr. Latimer's life illustrated the Beatitudes; with the third especially marked. Like Moses he was meek. He under-rated himself. 'He did not sound a trumpet before him; nor 'did his chariot rage in the streets.' He was a scholar, a thinker; seeing through problems far more clearly than many who shout their superficial views from the housetops. He did not often in public debate show his carefully thought out views. He was a student of the Word. His preaching was "the glorious Gospel of the blessed God." His life was applied Christianity. To ministers his life was a continual call to dwell in Christ. He stood as a rock in a raging stream.

Blessed with special fellowship in Christ, gifted with scholarly attainments, thoroughly indoctrinated, fine in sermon preparation, Mr. Latimer could not get these marked attainments before people with quite as much fluency as some inferior in them. But the power of God was in his messages as he rightly divided the word of truth. In later years Mr. Latimer had a longing desire to preach the Gospel. Brethren received letters intimating this. The Lord knew his heart and blessed him.

His life; his service; his prayers have ended. He passed out of view and left no word about coming back; for he knew that he was to be forever with the Lord. Weary the last years in the journey, he gathered the mantle of Christ about him and was buried with the honors of war for the kingdom which is to come.

### The COVENANTER WITNESS

Published Each Wednesday by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America, through its

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1209 Boswell Ave., Topeka, Kansas

#### AGENT FOR THE BRITISH ISLES

R. Holmes, Ballymoney, N. Ireland

\$2.00 per year. Foreign \$2.50 per year. Single copies 5c.

Special Rates to Congregations

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office in Topeka, Kansas, under the act of March 3, 1879, authorized August 11, 1932.