

W. H. HILL, Esq., J.P., spoke as follows:—

On Sunday last, our pastor gave us the history of the church worshipping in this chapel—our mother church, although she is but a hundred years old. She being a Christian church, founded upon the New Testament basis, and her episcopate being confined to the New Testament officials of bishop and deacons, our mother church is really as old as Christianity itself. The duty assigned to me is to place upon the record of these proceedings a few facts connected with one of her children. After the church at West Orchard had been “established” a little more than half a century—that is, about the year 1834—an attempt was made to carry on Sunday-school work in a tenement in Harnall Lane, near to what is now known as the Hill Fields district. This was at first commenced by, and at the expense of, the Sunday School Union, and conducted by teachers from various places of worship. About a year later it was removed to a small tenement in the rear of High Street, Hill Fields, and from this time it was principally supplied with teachers from West Orchard Chapel, and the Union was then freed from its responsibilities. The teaching was continued here until 1836, when the present chapel was erected—this being completed very much through the instrumentality and perseverance of our friend Mr. W. F. Taylor and the late Mr. Chetham. It was afterwards registered as a building intended to be used as a place for religious worship by a congregation of Protestant Dissenters. The opening services were conducted by the Rev. Mr. Copley, then of Oxford. For a short time the late Mr. Rhead and the late Mr. Adams preached there, but they both resigned in July, 1838. From that date Mr. W. F. Taylor regularly preached there on Sunday evenings, and was afterwards unanimously—

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and in conformity with the trust deeds—appointed to be the minister. From that time to the present (a period of more than thirty-nine years) our friend has regularly laboured there, and it may be truly said that the blessing of God has rested upon his labours. And now, at a good old age, he reluctantly retires from the active part of this labour of love, leaving it, in a state of peace and comparative prosperity, to younger hands and equally earnest hearts to continue the work so long carried on and prayerfully watched over by him. No one can say that at such an age (eighty years) retirement is not allowable, but all must admit it to be—in Mr. Taylor's case at least—well earned, and that he is fully entitled to rest from his labours, and enjoy in private life the inward satisfaction of a peaceful conscience, and a thankful heart that God in His great mercy has blessed him with a very long life and has enabled him to work in His vineyard for so many years.

The history of Hill Fields Chapel is thus given in a few words, but without special reference to Mr. Taylor it would be something like the play of Hamlet with the character of Hamlet left out. To judge of our friend's work as a whole we must remember that he devoted his time to this sacred cause when he was in the prime of his life, with abundance of this world's goods secured to him, and when many men would say (and in effect do say), "I have all I want, my time is my own, I will enjoy life and take my pleasure in the world." Not so with our friend. He threw his energies into the work of his Divine Master. His pleasure was to teach others the way of salvation, and, having this earnest desire to spend and be spent in his Master's work, he has systematically, earnestly, and prayerfully carried on the work at Hill Fields, conducting services on Sunday evenings, prayer-meetings on Monday, and service on Tuesday evenings. These ser-

vices, I am informed, have been well attended, and many of the hearers have become members of the church at West Orchard. The attendance at the Sunday-schools has always been large. Very many children have been religiously instructed by a never-failing supply of good teachers; many of the taught have afterwards become teachers, and several of them are preachers of the Gospel at the present time and take their turn to preach at Hill Fields Chapel.

Many expressions of attachment have been presented to Mr. Taylor during the long period of his faithful service "by hearts overflowing with gratitude and joy." And now that the active part of his work is ended, we all heartily join with our Hill Fields friends and say to our friend, "Well done, good and faithful servant." But our "Well done" is but a faint echo of that "Well done" which he will one day receive when he meets that Saviour he has tried to serve, and hears Him say, "Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." The testimonial we propose to give our friend will not consist of the gold that perisheth, but an expression of those golden opinions we have all formed of his real worth; and I now propose for your adoption two resolutions recognizing the services of Mr. W. F. Taylor as minister of Hill Fields Chapel for a period of more than thirty-nine years, and providing that, when the new chapel is built in Hill Fields, a tablet shall be erected recording Mr. Taylor's services.

(1) "That this meeting hereby expresses its deep sense of the value of Mr. W. F. Taylor's services as minister of Hill Fields Chapel for a period of nearly forty years, and it heartily congratulates him on the success with which God has crowned his labours of love. During the whole of Mr. Taylor's ministry he has laboured gratuitously. A large Sunday-school has been maintained in efficiency,

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many souls have been converted and received into church fellowship at West Orchard, and various other good has been done to the reality of which the future will testify."

(2) "That in the proposed new chapel at Hill Fields a tablet shall be erected in commemoration of Mr. Taylor's faithful services."

Mr. Alderman BETTS heartily seconded the proposition, saying that there was no need to add anything to Mr. Alderman Hill's statement.

The proposition was then put, and carried unanimously amid much cheering.

Mr. TAYLOR rose and said : Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—I most heartily thank you for the kind vote you have just passed, and may God bless you all.

The Rev. G. B. JOHNSON, of Torquay, next addressed the meeting :—

Dear Delf and dear Friends,—This is the very season and scene for reminiscences. They crowd our hearts, and not to indulge in some were a violence to deep and sacred feelings. I know I shall be forgiven if by way of preface I note a few.

I have been a preacher of the Gospel these seven and thirty years, and throughout four and thirty of them I have enjoyed far more intimate relations with you as a congregation than with any other congregation except those of which I have been the pastor. And for eighteen years of those four and thirty my residence at Edgbaston gave me the opportunity of cultivating that pleasant intimacy in many ways. In various meetings and services you have permitted me to share your pleasures and your sorrows.

Your beloved pastor is my beloved brother ; and his friendship has been one of the mightiest sources of strength