BIOGRAPHY.

MEMOIR OF Mrs. SARAH WILLS, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT.

BY WILLLIAM BAILEY.

Sarah Wills, whose maiden name was Hersey, was born the 21st of August, 1787, in the Parish of Westbourn, Sussex; where she continued to reside until a year previous to her marriage. Her parents regularly attended the ministry of the Established Church, and endeavoured to restrain their children from every kind of immorality; but as they were living in an unconverted state, they were not prepared to instruct them in the way that leads to heaven. The subject of this brief sketch therefore, remained at a distance from God, although strictly moral in her conduct.

She was married at Kingsware, Devon, Feb. 1808. Her husband being in the Coast Guard service, she had to remove frequently. She resided in Devonshire, at different stations, about twelve years, when on account of the delicate state of her health, her husband was allowed to remove to Elmore Station, Sussex, near her native place, where they resided four years, and were then removed to Gorran-haven, Cornwall. They had until this time regularly attended the Established Church, strictly adhered to what they considered right in the sight of God, and endeavoured to train up their children to habits of the strictest morality. While living in this place they were led to attend the preaching of the Wesleyan Methodists, near their residence; under which they both became convinced of their state as sinners, and earnestly sought the Lord. They joined the Society, and gave evidence to those by whom they were surrounded, that they were become children of God, by faith in Christ Jesus. They remained at Gorran-haven a year and a half, at the expiration of which time they were removed to Ireland, where they stayed one year, and her husband's health beginning to decline, they were stationed at Sandown, Isle of Wight. They united with the Wesleyans at Sandown, where after a lingering illness, the husband died happy, June 1st, 1829. I have often heard her speak with gratitude of the uninterrupted union that existed between them. Their children remember with pleasure how very comfortably they lived together, striving to promote each other's happiness.

Our late sister remained with the Wesleyans some time after her husband's death, until some of her children, and a niece who was then living with them, became convinced of sin, and joined the Bible Christian Society. Their mother then felt it her duty to unite with her children, and accordingly joined the Society at Sandown.

At her husband's death, she was left in very trying circumstances, with a weakly constitution, and seven children dependent on her for support. At this time of need, she was enabled to cast herself and fatherless children on the providential care of God. She had many difficulties to encounter but she trusted in the Lord, and He proved a husband to the widow, and a father to the fatherless. She was spared to see all her children grown up, and most of them members of the Bible Christian Society, and respected by all who know them. She removed from Sandown to Brading, with the view of procuring employment, to enable her to get honestly through life. With assistance she procured a mangle, and her elder children obtained employment. She

opened her house for preaching, and lodged the preachers cheerfully. She was generally respected while in Brading, where she lived five years. A way appearing to open for her in Newport, she removed with her family to this place, where she lived about thirteen years, until she was removed to her better mansion above. Her character was very consistent. Her strictly honest conduct was particularly noticed wherever she resided. What she knew she could not pay for, she never indulged herself with. Her supplies were often very scanty, yet she praised the Lord that she had not been forsaken.

She was cheerful and contented, though an afflicted woman. For many years her appearance was strikingly feeble ; but all who knew her could see heaven beaming in her countenance. For some time before her death, she was often prevented through extreme debility from attending a place of worship, but for a little time she rallied, and was able to attend the chapel about three weeks previous to her death. Her weakness from this time increased, and she gradually decayed. The Lord mercifully preserved her during her last illness, from the cares which had so long rested on her, during her long state of widowhood ; they were all taken away, she was calm and tranquil. Her mind was stayed on the Lord ; earthly ties were mercifully loosened ; and as she drew nearer to the eternal world, she was enabled to look beyond every thing else to her eternal rest above. When asked the state of her mind, it was all peace and tranquillity ; she was patiently awaiting her change. Her bodily sufferings were distressingly severe in her last hours, beyond description, which made her very restless, but her mind was stayed on the Lord. She was mercifully released from an extreme state of suffering, to an eternal state of rest and blessedness, on May 8th, 1850, aged 63 years.

She had been a worthy, consistent member of the Bible Christian Society nineteen years, and I believe I can say with propriety, she was a sincere christian. For many years she had to wade through deep poverty, but it was always her aim to "owe no man anything." Her children were brought up in the fear of the Lord. She set before them an example worthy of their imitation. Her religion was both experimental and practical. Her family are very much united, may they all meet in heaven.

While endeavouring to improve her death in Zion chapel, Newport, from these words, "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death," a gracious influence was felt. She was much respected in life, and many testified their respect to her memory by attending that evening.

MEMOIR OF WILLIAM PADDY.

William Paddy was born on the 2nd of January, 1830, at Portholland, in the parish of Veryan, Cornwall. From a child he was always obedient to his parents, and was of a forgiving temper. He became a teetotaler at eight years of age, and was never known to drink any intoxicating drink from that time except as a medicine. As most young men, he was fond of company, and through that he wasted much of his time. Satan kept him for many years in the path that leadeth to hell and destruction ; but on a Sabbath School being established at Portholland he joined it and was a due attendant for twelve months, when it was broken up.

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DIVINITY.

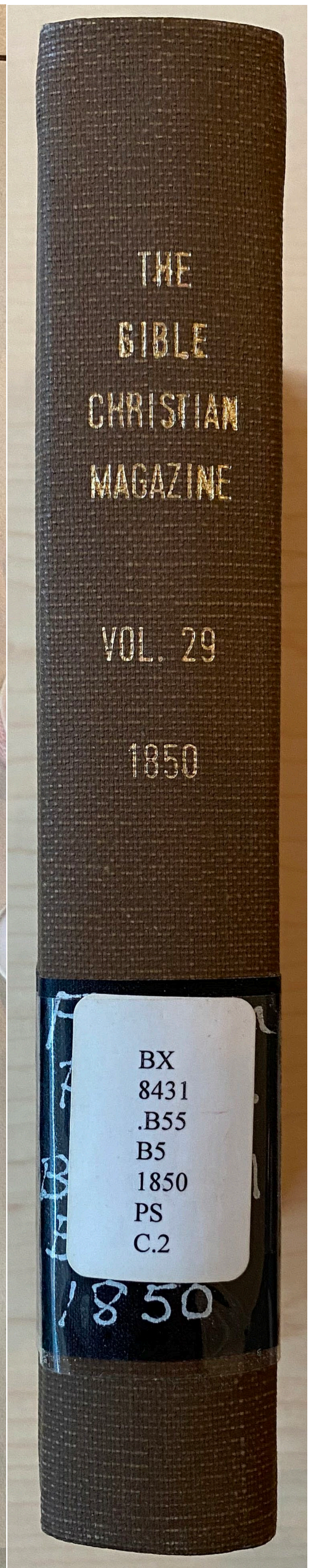
CONTENTMENT.

"I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." PHIL. iv. 11.*

VIRTUES and discourses are like friends, necessary in all fortunes; but those are the best which are friends in our sadnesses, and support us in our sorrows and sad accidents: and in this sense, no man that is virtuous can be friendless; nor hath any reason to complain of the Divine Providence, or to accuse the public disorder of things, or his own infelicity, since God hath appointed one remedy for all the evils in the world, and that is a contented spirit: for this alone makes a man pass through fire, and not be scorched; through seas, and not be drowned; through hunger and nakedness, and want nothing. For since all the evil in the world consists in the disagreement between the object and the appetite, as when a man hath what he desire not, or desires what he hath not, or desires amiss; he that composes his spirit to the present accident, hath variety of instances for his virtue, but none to trouble him, because his desires enlarge not beyond his present fortune, and a wise man is placed in the variety of chances, like the nave or centre of a wheel in the midst of all the circumvolutions and changes of posture, without violence or change, save that it turns gently in compliance with its changed parts, and is indifferent which part is up and which is down; for there is some virtue or other to be exercised whatever happens, either patience or thanksgiving, love or fear, moderation or humility, charity or contentment, and they are every one of them, equally in order to this great end and immortal felicity; and beauty is not made by white or red, by black eyes and a round face, by a straight body and a smooth skin; but by a proportion to the fancy. No rules can make amiability, our minds and apprehensions make that; and so is our felicity; and we may

* The following article is an extract from Dr. Jer. Taylor's "Holy Living." I have copied from the Eighth Edition printed in 1668, in which are some obsolete words, and much erroneous spelling, according to modern usage, both of which I have endeavoured to correct. I have also omitted all the marginal references, to Greek and Latin profane authors, of which there are many.

J ASHTON.



William Bailey, "Memoir of Mrs. Sarah Wills, Newport, Isle of Wight," *Bible Christian Magazine*, Vol. XV, New Series, Oct 1850, pp. 377-378; citing BX8431.B55 B5 1850 PS C.2 held at the United Church of Canada Archives, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Page 3 of 3.