



The late Dr. Grattan Guinness.

GRATTAN GUINNESS, an honoured servant of Christ and one of the founders of the North Africa Mission, was taken to be with Christ on June 21st, 1910. He was born on August 11th, 1835, so was nearly seventy-five years of age. He and Mr. George Pearse were the two men who were mainly instrumental in God's hands in founding the Mission to the Kabyles of Algeria, which has developed into the North Africa Mission.

Dr. Guinness's first visit to Algeria was in 1879, thirty-one years ago, when he took a journey into Kabylia.

In 1880, Mr. and Mrs. George Pearse called to see him at Harley House and to consult as to their future work for the Lord. Mrs. Pearse, as Miss Bonycastle, had been led to Christ through Dr. Guinness's preaching in Paris, and she and her husband had visited Algiers in 1876 to distribute Scriptures among French soldiers, and had then been interested in the Kabyles. As their work in Paris had been taken over by others, Dr. Guinness pressed them to go to Algeria again, and seek to carry the Gospel to the Kabyles. At the same time he handed them a small gift as a first donation towards the work. In the following year, when the Mission to the Kabyles was inaugurated, he became one of a small committee of three for the management of the work. In 1883, when the work was re-

organised and a Council formed, he took an active part, and he and Mrs. Guinness remained members of the Council till 1888, when, on account of their removal from London, they resigned, though still remaining referees and taking a deep interest in the Mission. Dr. Guinness later on visited Algeria again, and was present in Kabylia when some converted Kabyle Moslems were baptised.

Humanly speaking, it seems probable that but for Dr. Guinness the N.A.M. would not have been founded. God worked through him to initiate the work and stand by it for a time, and then brought in others to carry it on and develop it.

Dr. Guinness was led to Christ in a remarkable way. Though he had Christian parents and a remarkably devoted mother, it seems that for some years he lived a careless life. He was, however, very truly and really converted when 18 or 19 years of age, through the instrumentality of his brother, who was some two years younger than he. The circumstances that led up to it are very interesting. Some lady, interested in sailors, gave away a Bible which in some way was placed on a ship in Liverpool. A sailor on this ship, who was dissatisfied with his sinful life, got hold of it, and was by it led to the Lord Jesus. Dr. Grattan Guinness's younger brother, Wyndham (now vicar of Rathdrum, Ireland), while sailing as a midshipman, came in contact with this sailor, who was by this time a mate, and through this man his mother's prayers were answered and he was converted. Returning from sea to his brother Grattan in Cheltenham, he arrived in the night and shared his brother's bed. Before going to sleep he told his brother of his conversion and urged him to come to Christ. Weary with his long journey he fell asleep, and when he awoke in the morning he found his brother Grattan had found the Saviour.

Then began a life of whole-hearted devotion to Christ, which would need a volume to describe. Thousands crowded to hear him and great numbers were converted. For nearly twenty years he travelled and preached in the United Kingdom, in Europe and in America.

He thought of going to Patagonia as a missionary. Then he proposed to go to China in association with Hudson Taylor, but was advised, in view of his age and other circumstances, that this might not be the best way in which he could promote the spread of the Gospel.

Soon after this, he opened an Institute in East London, at 20, Stepney Green, for training workers for the home and foreign fields. This Institute was removed to Harley House, Bow, and a branch opened at Cliff, in Derbyshire, and from these institutes some 1,300 workers have gone out, most of them to the foreign mission field.

For a number of years Dr. Guinness has handed over the responsibility of these institutions to his son, Dr. Harry Guinness, who has added to the work by establishing missions on the Congo, in South America and in India. At the present time, these missions and training homes are passing through a period of severe trial. The work has grown so rapidly that its income has not kept pace with its expenditure, which now amounts to £25,000 a year. It is remarkable that this crisis should arise just at the time of the death of Dr. Guinness, the Founder; and we pray and trust that God may guide to such steps being taken and such help given as shall enable the institutions to continue their most helpful work.

Beside the training of missionaries, Dr. Guinness, during the last generation, published a number of works on prophecy, history, astronomy and other subjects, which remain as a permanent contribution to the literature of the subjects treated of, and as a lasting monument to their author.

It is worth considering wherein the strength of this eminent servant of God lay. He was a man of great intellectual power and, in his younger days, of thrilling eloquence, and even in his later days the old eloquence was heard when he had a congenial subject to speak upon. But neither eloquence nor intellectual power seemed to be the real secret of his influence. He delighted in the Word of God, and he was a man of much and fervent prayer and child-like trust. Herein lay the secret of his usefulness.

His brother has told how, in his early days when he went forth to preach, in his room would be found a handkerchief so saturated with tears he had shed while praying for souls that it was hung over the chair to dry. And another has told how he found him at six in the morning, studying his Bible. He has left behind him several Bibles with numerous helpful notes.

He realised in a marked degree Christ's love to him, and that love constrained him to intense love and loyalty to his Lord in return.

We may none of us have either his eloquence or his intellectual power, but his Lord is ours, and He can manifest Himself to us and constrain us to love Him and follow Him, as He did His honoured servant, Grattan Guinness.

E. H. G.

The late Mr. Alfred Chapman.

In our July issue we briefly mentioned the fact of the death of Mr. Chapman on June 17th. He attended the monthly Council meeting on Tuesday, June 7th, apparently in his usual health. A few days later he seemed unwell, and by the following Tuesday, June 14th, his illness had assumed such an alarming form that it was necessary to perform a very serious operation immediately. The doctors were, however, unable to remove the cause of the trouble. Mr. Chapman mercifully suffered but little pain afterwards. Weakness prevented his speaking much, but he was kept quite calm, and smiled peacefully at his loved ones. On Friday morning, after a night of unconsciousness, he passed away. He was sixty-five years of age.

Mr. Chapman had been a member of the N.A.M. Council since 1904. He was a regular attendant at the monthly meetings, and of special service in connection with the finance of the Mission. His interest in the missionaries and in the work was very real. He was a man of much prayer, and his one purpose in home, business, and church life was to discover what the written Word of God showed to be the mind of God. He delighted to encourage others in definite dependence on God.

Mr. Chapman was introduced to the membership of the N.A.M. Council by our esteemed friend and former member of Council, Pastor James Stephens of Highgate Road Church. Mr. Chapman had been a member of the church there for exactly thirty-two years, and during that period had served as a deacon for about sixteen years.

The funeral took place at Highgate Cemetery on June 20th. Both at the graveside and at the service that went before at Highgate Road Chapel, a very large number of friends assembled to show their esteem and love for the departed one. Mr. Stephens conducted the services, and Mr. David Baron (of whose work in the "Hebrew Christian Testimony to Israel" Mr. Chapman had been an attached helper) led in prayer.

On the N.A.M. Council the loss of Mr. Chapman will be greatly felt. We shall miss his business ability, his kindly smile, his cheering speech and his consistent spiritual influence. For him, we rejoice to know that he has the portion, far better than any possible on earth, of being "with Christ." May his sorrowing widow and family be greatly "comforted of God"! M. H. M.