



ELDER ROBERT EDWARDS KIRTLEY.  
Born, February 7th, 1820; Died, August 31st, 1898.

This veteran of the cross received his discharge from this war on August 31st, 1898, and entered into that "rest that remains to the people of God." His last illness extended through some eighteen months, and several of those preceding his departure were marked by great suffering, but he bore it most patiently and "endured as seeing Him who is invisible." The end was peaceful and triumphant.

Bro. Kirtley was born of religious parents on February 7th, 1820, in Boone county, Ky. In early youth he acquired a fair English education, with some knowledge of Latin, at a good country academy, conducted by competent teachers. To this he added a year of close application and painstaking study at Hanover College, Indiana, where he made especial proficiency in mathematics, in which was evinced the analytical turn of mind, which was so marked a feature of his future studies and teaching of the Bible. His mind was keenly analytical, he loved truth, and it was his delight to explore profound and abstruse subjects.

He was converted in October, 1839, and was baptized by his father, Elder Robert Kirtley, into the fellowship of Bullittsburg church, Boone county, Kentucky, the first Lord's day in November, 1839. His Christian life at once became marked by a great change in his spirit, modes of thought and habit of life. He accepted from the beginning the governing thought that he was the Lord's, that he owed supreme allegiance to Him, and henceforth coveted, as his highest aim, to be an humble, obedient and faithful servant of the Lord, in whatever sphere of life and labor he might be called.

For a few years he was usefully employed as an active private member of several churches. Having married in 1849, he moved to St. Mary's, Illinois, and not long after he moved to Missouri, where he united in the organization of the Union church, near his residence, and in this church he was ordained to the full work of the Gospel ministry in 1863. The presbytery was composed of Elders A. P. Williams, Luther and Bell. He exercised his ministerial gifts most acceptably for a short time in Saline Association. He returned to Kentucky in 1864, and took up the work in North Bend Association, preaching at Middle Creek, East Bend and Sand Run churches, having served the latter as long as he was able to preach, which was about a year and a half before his departure. "Uncle Robert," as he was familiarly called, was truly a great man in heart, in thought, in life, and in the hearts and lives of his brethren. He was a wise counsellor, a loving friend and a willing helper. He was a grand man; grand in stature, grand in his noble Christian character, grand in his influence with his brethren. He will be greatly missed by the North Bend Association.

Elders J. S. Kirtley, C. G. Jones, T. L. Utz, M. J. Hoover, O. M. Huey and B. F. Swindler acted as pall-bearers and made remarks at the Memorial Service September 2nd, at Bullittsburg church. Bro. James A. Kirtley, his brother, closed with some recital of facts concerning his conversion and early life as a minister. As he was concluding, he said: "I stood here by the remains of my father (Elder Robert Kirtley); I stood here by the remains of my son (Elder Eusebius Kirtley); now I stand by the remains of my brother; and I say, I am grateful to God for such a father, and for such a son, and for such a brother." These words were happily appropriate and becoming. They came from a full heart in recognition of the goodness of God.

"Servant of God, well done!  
Rest from thy loved employ;  
The battle fought, the victory won,  
Enter thy Master's joy."