

## The Morgans of Birmingham.

MINISTERS' homes train the best citizens, as the *Dictionary of National Biography* proves abundantly.

Birmingham has a fine reputation for citizenship, and four men came forth from a Baptist manse there, early last century, whose lives illustrate the wealth of character in our middle classes.

THOMAS MORGAN was born on the 1st of January, 1776, being the second son of William Morgan, a farmer of Crinow, near Narberth, in Pembroke. He was confirmed at the age of twelve, baptised at fifteen (through the influence of a maid servant at the farm), entered Bristol college 1792, succeeded Samuel Pearce at Cannon Street, Birmingham, 1802, resigned because of illness 1811; accepted call as afternoon lecturer at Bond Street in the same town 1815; became co-pastor there with Edward Edmonds, 1820; was elected pastor on the death of Mr. Edmonds in 1822, and retained the pastorate until 1846; spent his last years in retirement at Church Hill, Handsworth; became Elder of Mount Zion Church, Graham Street; and died on the 15th of November, 1857, in his eighty-second year.

In 1803 he married Ann Harwood, born 1874, daughter of John Harwood, of Birmingham. In Fuller's *Life of Samuel Pearce*, her first pastor and spiritual father, Mrs. Morgan is mentioned in the letters at the end of the book. Her family deserves notice on another occasion, for greatness is often due to the mothers of families.

After 1811, when Thomas Morgan had broken down in health, he returned from Clifton and Cheltenham and settled down to the life of a farmer on a little estate at Moseley, which he retained during the early years of his Bond Street lectureship. His wife opened a boarding school for young ladies at "The Grove," as the estate was called, and among her pupils were the Misses Franklin, who afterwards for a long course of years were the proprietors and conductors of a large and most successful similar establishment at Coventry, their native town, where George Eliot was a pupil.

Thomas and Ann Morgan had two daughters and five sons, four of whom played some part in denominational affairs, if not in national.

### I. THOMAS HARWOOD MORGAN.

Thomas Harwood Morgan, their eldest son, was born 1811;

trained as a doctor, but became a teacher; entered Stepney College 1835; settled at Boston, Lincs., 1839; afterwards at Stourbridge; spent some time in business; married Sarah Adams, 1845; founded in 1850 the Birmingham Scholastic Institution for the Sons of Ministers, at Shireland Hall, where George Newnes was educated before going to Silcoates; went to America, with family, 1867; returned in 1873 and settled at Harrow-on-the-Hill; and afterwards went to South Hackney, where he died at the age of sixty-eight.

Sarah Adams, his wife, was born 1816. She was the daughter of Thomas Adams, of Stratford-on-Avon, a member successively of the Baptist churches at Charles Street, Leicester; and Bond Street, Graham Street, and the Church of the Redeemer, Hagley Road, all of Birmingham. Of the twenty Elders appointed for Graham Street in 1847, seven were closely related, Thomas Morgan, Thomas Harwood Morgan, William Morgan, Alfred Fairfax Morgan, Thomas Adams, Thomas Harwood, and Josiah Cox Woodhill; and four others were distantly related, Samuel Daniell, Henry N. E. McEnvoy, and William and Robert Welchman.

The mother of Sarah Adams was Ann, daughter of Enoch Butwell, of the Congregational Church at Stratford-on-Avon. His pedigree was traced from one of William the Conqueror's warriors through the name of Colonel Botwell the Ironside. Ann Butwell's second husband was James Cox, of Stratford and Birmingham, a direct descendant of Colonel Fairfax of the Parliamentary Army. Mr. and Mrs. James Cox founded the Baptist Church at Stratford-on-Avon, and were honourably associated with it unto their deaths.

Mary Adams, the aunt of Mrs. T. H. Morgan, married Thomas Hamilton, the founder and head of the publishing firm of Hamilton, Adams, & Company, of London, from whose establishment issued many of the works of Robert Hall, Edward Irving, Jay of Bath, John Angell James, and Bradley of Clapham.

Mrs. T. H. Morgan's nephew, Henry Ogden Adams, married Emily Eliza, eldest daughter of David Alfred Doudney, D.D., Rector of St. Luke's, Bedminster, and for fifty-three years editor of the *Gospel Magazine* (the oldest of religious periodicals, founded 1766, once edited by Toplady), also the founder and editor of a paper, once much read, called *Old Jonathan*.

Harwood Morgan, son of T. H. Morgan, married Mary Starring; whose mother was a direct descendant of Roger Williams. William Adams Morgan, another son, married Lizzie Dana Hovey, whose father was a deacon of the First Baptist Church of Chicago and the man to whom D. L. Moody attributed his early religious impressions and his conversion. It was for

William Adams Morgan that P. P. Bliss (a distant connection) wrote the words of the hymn, "Wonderful words of life."

## II. WILLIAM MORGAN.

William Morgan was the third son of Thomas and Ann Morgan. He was born 1815; trained for a solicitor, and became Town Clerk of Birmingham. As a Temperance advocate he was challenged to a duel, being probably the last man of our time to receive such a letter. With George Edmunds, son of the Bond Street minister, and the Sturge family, he worked for the passing of the Reform Bill. He had his goods seized in 1834 for non-payment of the Church Rate. From 1833, when William Knibb was a guest in his father's house, he was a strong advocate for negro emancipation, and later was the friend of the venerable Thomas Clarkson. He became a member of the Society for the Suppression of the Opium Traffic; was solicitor to the committee that destroyed the Bible Printing monopoly of the Universities and the Royal Printers, and so pioneered cheap Bibles; was honorary secretary of the National Complete Suffrage Association; assisted Davenport Hill and Mary Carpenter in the establishment of the first Industrial and Reformatory schools; and helped in the relief of the distress in Ireland in 1847.

William and his brothers in 1845 helped Joseph Sturge conduct the first party of Sunday-school scholars and teachers, numbering 4,561, on an excursion from Birmingham to Derby, on the then recently opened Midland Railway.

In the year 1837, William Middlemore and William Morgan founded the Birmingham Baptist Union, for the erection of new places of worship in and about the town. The labours of this Society, which began with the erection of Heneage Street Chapel, were continued for many years. In its first fifty years it augmented the Baptist Churches, and buildings, by thirty. In the year of its foundation Birmingham had only five Baptist chapels. Perhaps the one they did not build was the most remarkable of their work. In Bradford Street was an edifice known as Ryan's Amphitheatre. This they adapted as a chapel, known for years as the "Circus Chapel," and in it was gathered, under Dr. Landels, a congregation from which came the Wycliffe Church of Bristol Road, the pastor of which was for many years J. Jenkyn Brown.

In 1866 William Morgan went to Jamaica in his professional capacity, at the instance of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society. Whilst there he worked with Sir Henry Stocks, Russell Gurney, the Recorder of London, and J. B. Maule, the Recorder of Leeds, who then formed the Royal Commission of inquiry into the conduct of Governor Eyre. In the course of the investi-

gations at Manchioneal, William Morgan and Russell Gurney became intimate, and found they had the same denominational sympathies, for Gurney was the son of Baron Gurney, a deacon at Maze Pond, and a nephew of William Brodie Gurney, the well-known shorthand writer to both Houses of Parliament, and the Treasurer of the Baptist Missionary Society.

William Morgan married, in 1841, Henrietta Barnard, granddaughter of William Barnard, of Frampton, thus linking the Morgans with the Fryers, Clarks, Barretts, Clutterbucks, Sampsons, Brocks, Bishops, and the Thomas and Bliss families. John Heskins, one of the ancestors of the Barnards, had a long connection with the Baptist Church at Nailsworth. He married a Mary Bliss, and their son, John, married Sophia, the daughter of Benjamin Francis, pastor at Nailsworth for forty-two years, and a hymn-writer whose work was then well known. An apprentice of John Heskins was the son of Benjamin Beddome, of Bourton-on-the-Water, author of "Grace, 'tis a charming sound," and other hymns. The sister of John Heskins married Edward Barnard, father of Mrs. William Morgan.

### III. HENRY MORGAN.

Henry Morgan, fourth son of Thomas and Ann Morgan, was born in 1818, and at the age of sixteen became the private secretary to Captain (afterwards Admiral) Moorson, R.N., the then secretary of the London and Birmingham Railway. Henry Morgan himself became secretary to several lines, the Birmingham Extension and the Stour Valley, the northern section of the London and North Western, and the Oldham and Guide Bridge Railway. He retired in 1880, and died fourteen years later. Mr. Morgan was a very strong Temperance advocate, both in example and authorship.

He married, in 1848, at the Baptist Chapel, Scarborough, Hannah Livett, who came of a Bristol family, connected through many generations with Broadmead Chapel. Hannah's paternal grandfather, Andrew Livett, was married in an orange-coloured suit, and is said to have been the first man in Bristol who carried an umbrella. One of her cousins married into the family of the Tucketts, lineal descendants of the Earls of Kildare, now represented by the Duke of Leinster.

Through Mrs. Henry Morgan the family also became connected with the Baynes. Of these, Thomas Spencer Baynes became Professor of Logic and Moral Philosophy at St. Andrews, and one of the editors of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*; John Ash Baynes became secretary of the Central India Railway and a director of the L.M.S.; Robert Hall Baynes became a Canon; William Wilberforce Baynes became secretary to the Star Insur-

ance Company; Alfred Henry Baynes became the able and zealous secretary of the Baptist Missionary Society; and a son, Hamilton Baynes, became Bishop of Natal, and is now renewing the connection with Birmingham as Assistant Bishop there.

#### IV. ALFRED FAIRFAX MORGAN.

Alfred Fairfax Morgan, F.R.G.S., was the fifth son of Thomas and Ann Morgan. Like his brother William, he was a great traveller, and Thomas Cook acknowledged he owed the inspiration of his career from these brothers. Alfred was also a solicitor. As a delegate of the Peace Conference he went to Geneva, Chicago, Antwerp, and other places. Whilst at Birkenhead he attended the ministry of Samuel Harris Booth, afterwards the secretary of the Baptist Union. He was one of the original members of the National Liberal Club. He was born in 1823, and died in 1903, at Leamington.

He married, in 1858, Sophia Fowler Woodhill, daughter of Josiah Cox Woodhill, deacon at Bond Street, and afterwards elder at Graham Street. Sophia F. Woodhill connected the Morgans with the Hodgson, Fowler, Crosswell, Lillington, Davies, Naden, and Bott families. Edward Blakemore, great-grandfather of Sophia, joined them with the Butler, Michell, and Pearce families. His wife was a Mary Jarvis, a descendant of the celebrated Admiral, Lord St. Vincent. The Blakemores were members of Cannon Street, and fully shared in the enthusiasm of Samuel Pearce, in 1794, at the formation and support of the B.M.S.

Martha Blakemore, eldest daughter of Edward and Mary, married William Henry Pearce, son of Samuel, and with her husband lived for some time at Serampore, with Carey, Marshman, and Ward. She afterwards married Dr. Yates, the successor of William Carey. Another daughter, Mary, became the wife of Dr. Johns, the medical colleague of the Serampore trio, Hannah Carey Blakemore married Edwin Abraham Butler. Their daughter, Martha, married John Michell. Their daughter, Rachel, married Ernest Alfred Morgan, son of A. F. Morgan.

A cousin of Mrs. A. F. Morgan was Anne Blakemore, who married Richard Heath, author of *Edgar Quinet*, the *History of the Anabaptists*, and other works that give evidence of the advanced political views he had adopted during his many years residence in France. Another cousin, Fanny Davies, was a pianist of more than usual ability, and was as highly esteemed by her friends for her intellectual endowments and many excellent social qualities as in public life she was appreciated for her great artistic attainments. She was a great favourite, as a musician, of Queen Victoria. Another cousin was Constance Caroline

Woodhill Naden (1857-89), who was included in Mrs. Sharp's *Women Poets of the Victorian Era*. Although young, Miss Naden was both a scientist and philosopher, and her early death cut short a career that promised much of the same power as that of George Eliot in psychology, and as that of Oliver Wendell Holmes in the subtle blending of philosophy and science with the graces of poesy.

Miss Naden's grandfather married one of three sisters whose name was Field. Another married John Hillyard, rector of Ingestre, Staffordshire. Mrs. Hillyard, after becoming a widow, although she inherited a third of the estate of her uncle, John Bott, lived in a very retired and simple manner. In her old age she wrote to C. H. Spurgeon, to whom she was a complete stranger, offering to make a contribution to found an orphanage, and asking him to come and see her. Mr. Spurgeon went, taking William Higgs with him. When he saw the unpretentious residence, he said that he was sure there had been a mistake in writing down the amount of the intended donation, and suggested that it should read £200. That sum was therefore mentioned by him to the lady interrogatively. "Two hundred pounds!" said the dear old lady, who had been saving up her wealth for some worthy purpose, and had large ideas of that purpose, "Did I say two hundred pounds? I mean to give *twenty thousand pounds!*" And she did. It represented the bulk of her fortune. Mr. Spurgeon and his friend were entrusted with securities for that large amount, which they took back to London with them then and there, and soon after "Mr. Spurgeon's Orphanage" was founded.

F. W. BUTT-THOMPSON.