

AUTOBIOGRAPHY.*

I was born in Plainfield, Sullivan Co., New Hampshire, July 29th, 1800. My parents, Joseph and Mary Elkins Spaulding, were of English descent and removed to Compton, Upper Canada, in my infancy, and lived there twelve years. In 1813 they moved back to the States, and resided in Pomfret, Connecticut.

I was awakened, when quite young, to a sense of my lost condition, but was nineteen years of age before I obtained a hope in Christ, and professed religion. I was then serving an apprenticeship at the saddle and harness-makers trade, in Pomfret, and was admitted to the Congregational Church in that place; but soon began, by reading of the New Testament, to be tried in my mind on the subject of baptism, and about one year from this time, having gone to Worcester, Massachusetts to work at my trade, I attended the meeting of Dr. Jonathan Going, and was baptized and united with the Baptist Church of which he was Pastor.

I now began to feel an ardent desire to become useful as a Christian, and supplied myself with some books to read and study for the improvement of my mind, which had been sadly neglected from my not having had the early advantages of a common school education. When my apprenticeship expired I went into my Pastor's family to get what help I could from reading and study, where I spent six months.

Then I worked my way along, and spent about six months in Rev. Mr. Fisher's school for young men which he taught in his own house in Bellingham, Mass. After that I attended two or three terms at Amherst Academy, and in 1824, by the advice and assistance of my good Pastor, Dr. Going, and the Church, I went to Waterville, and was there about two years, in the Theological Institute, attending to such branches as I most needed.

In 1826 the Officers of the College received a letter from Levant

*This sketch was prepared by Mr. Spaulding in the year 1876, after he was laid aside from his active labors, and was written at the request of Mr. E. P. Mayo, now Editor and Proprietor of the *Fairfield Journal*, but has never before been printed in full.