

REV. MR. WIVELL'S PASTORATE.

John Wivell was born in England. He became a sailor in early life, professed conversion and joined the Methodists—afterward he became a Presbyterian, and among them commenced preaching. He labored sometime in Nova Scotia, and then came to New York and was baptised by Rev. Duncan Dunbar. He was almost immediately licensed and ordained, and spent some time laboring among the seamen. He removed to Scotch Plains in March, 1842, and such was his tact, and insinuating address, that he soon attracted to him the public favor, and the congregation rapidly increased in numbers, and there were many professed converts.

The deportment of Mr. Wivell was regarded by some from the beginning, as somewhat offensive to good taste, but was readily excused on account of his sea-faring life. After a while, reports unfavorable to his moral purity were whispered about. At length the truth burst upon the church like a thunder clap. The humiliation and mortification which ensued was great, and Mr. Wivell was speedily excluded from the fellowship of the church. His subsequent life and the fictitious names he assumed fully proved the wisdom of the church in its prompt action. Nothing so disastrous had ever occurred in the history of the church; but while it humbled the membership, it did not divide them.

The unfortunate incident proves that God's real people will be true and united even under disastrous circumstances; and that the acts of even bad men will be overruled to accomplish His glory.