

attached and faithful member and deacon. Mr. McLagan was born near Dunkeld, Perthshire, Scotland, in February, 1800. While yet but a young man he united with the Congregational Church at Dunkeld, of which our late venerated father, Rev. John Black, was then the pastor. For fifteen years he adorned the fellowship of the church, serving it during most of the time in the capacity of deacon and Sabbath School teacher.

In the year 1847, in company with his wife, three sons and three daughters, he crossed the Atlantic, arriving in Sarnia on the 7th November. In the same ship that brought him over, came also the mother and brothers of the Hon. Alex. McKenzie, late Premier of the Dominion, and at that time one of the rising young men of Sarnia. Those who were his companions in travel had also been his friends and fellow townsmen in the Old Country. After his arrival at Sarnia, Mr. McLagan united with the Congregational Church, then under the pastoral care of the Rev. Mr. Nall, and subsequently ministered to by the Rev. Archibald Geikie, the father of the well-known Dr. Cunningham Geikie, author of the "Life of Christ." Of this church, Mr. McLagan was made a deacon and a Sabbath School teacher. Indeed, in the earlier history of the church and for many years, he voluntarily, and without remuneration, did the duties of sexton, providing the oil for the church at his own expense. For forty years, and during all the very trying vicissitudes of the church's history, Mr. McLagan stuck to it to the last. Many wavered, but he never wavered. In times of difficulty, when many left the church to join more prosperous churches he never left it. During the nine years that the church was practically defunct, and the church building closed, Mr. McLagan, though regularly worshipping with other congregations, was known as a Congregationalist; and when Mr. Claris came to resuscitate the cause, he was one of the very few who answered to the roll call and assisted in rallying the scattered forces. By that frugality, industry and enterprise which is characteristic of his countrymen, Mr. McLagan attained to the possession of considerable property; but in an evil hour, by endorsement for a near relative who failed in business, he lost it all. His conduct on this trying occasion was most honorable; he scorned to resort to any of those reprehensible methods by which many men seek to save themselves from poverty. He frankly gave up all to his creditors, and though his over-indulgence cost him the fruits of many years of toil, he emerged from the cloud with his honor untarnished and his fair name unsullied, but too old to be able to retrieve his scattered fortunes. But for this disaster, which happened while the new Congregational Church in Sarnia was building, that Church would have been at least a

*thousand dollars less burdened with debt than it is to day.*

Mr. McLagan's qualities of head and heart were many and conspicuous, and may be thus epitomized. He was a faithful friend, a diligent student of the word of God, an earnest worker in the Church of Christ, a liberal giver to the cause of God, and a man of prayer. His sympathies were as Catholic as his attachment to his own denomination was sincere. He was a man of fine presence, and blessed with almost invariable good health. To the last, and even after death, his countenance retained that ruddy glow of health which is peculiar to those who come from the Old Country. It pleased our Heavenly Father to give unto His honored servant a very peaceful and comparatively painless departure. Prostrated by a very slight stroke of paralysis, on the Thursday afternoon, he lay without suffering pain, and able to recognize his friends, and to answer their enquiries until Sabbath morning, when with scarce a struggle he quietly fell asleep in Jesus. A large number of sympathizing friends followed the remains to their last resting-place in Lake View Cemetery on the following Tuesday afternoon. A good congregation gathered in the Congregational Church on the morning of May the 6th, when the pastor made improvement of the bereavement, taking for his subject the parting scene between the prophets Elijah and Elisha, II Kings, ii: 9-10. "And it came to pass when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee before I be taken from thee," etc.

Mr. McLagan's widow still survives him, at the age of eighty-four, and is cared for by two unmarried daughters; and singular to say, this is the first break in the family circle. The three sons and three daughters whom he brought across the sea still survive. Three remain in Sarnia and three are in the United States. Will any of the readers of the INDEPENDENT whom this obituary notice interests, please remember in prayer the bereaved Church in Sarnia, from which another deacon has left us this week to seek a home in California, thus leaving but one in the office of the diaconate, and with but small material from which to make another choice, though God is graciously blessing His word and gradually adding to our number.

ROBERT K. BLACK.

Sarnia, 9th May, 1888.

#### RICHARD M. BURGESS.

Many readers of the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT will be sorry to hear of the death of Rev. Richard M. Burgess, who passed away on April 16th, at the Parsonage, South Haven, Michigan, where he had been settled as Pastor only about *six weeks*.