

OBITUARY.

Rev. Allan Fraser.*

The death of this very laborious and successful minister of Christ has already been noticed in some of our periodicals. A rather more extended record of this servant of the Lord, who, like Hananiah of old, "was a faithful man and feared God above many," might not be unacceptable to the readers of the *Record*. Mr. Fraser was a native of Belfast, P. E. Island.

This portion of the British Provinces has not been altogether behind other localities in furnishing its quota of laborers to the vineyard of the Lord. Two missionaries it has given to the Foreign Field, one of whom fell in the service of his Master on Erromanga's blood-stained shores; another is a devoted laborer on the same Island at present. In the Homefield, we have the Revs. Messrs. D. Gordon, Allan Simpson, R. Laird, J. Bearisto, and J. Bernard, in connection with the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces; and the two Messrs. Simpson, of the Canada Presbyterian Church; and the Rev. D. Lockerby, of the United States. May the Lord of the vineyard put it into the hearts of more of our young men to go and do likewise!

For a considerable time Mr. Fraser followed the profession of a teacher. In the pursuit of this occupation he came to reside at Princetown. There it was his privilege to listen to the earnest, faithful, and able ministrations of the late Rev. Dr. Keir. This, doubtless, had no small influence on his future life. Our departed brother, both as a man, and in the exercise of his important office while a teacher, was loved and respected by his employers, and others who had the pleasure of his acquaintance.

He had not connected himself, as far as we know, with any denomination of professing Christians previous to his coming to reside at Princetown. In course of some time after this event he felt it to be his duty to enter into the communion of the Church. As he had not received baptism in infancy, that ordinance was, upon a satisfactory profession of his faith, administered to him; and thus he was acknowledged a member of the Church in connection with the congregation of Princetown. The Great Head of the Church, however, had work for him to do in His vineyard. He, accordingly, put it into his heart to study for the ministry, which he did, in the Seminary of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia. Hence at a meeting of Presbytery held at Princetown on the 12th December, 1854, after having successfully passed through the usual trials, he was licensed to preach the gospel, and forthwith appointed to give supply of preaching to Cascumpec and

West Point. A call was presented to him by the congregations in these localities, signed by 85 church members and 69 ordinary hearers, which was accepted by him, and, on the 6th day of June, 1855, he was ordained to the pastoral charge of the congregation of Cascumpec and West Point.

God appoints to His servants their several spheres of labor, and a careful observer may often see His wisdom in appointing to each his particular locality. Our departed brother was eminently fitted for the position in which he was placed by the Great Head of the Church. It was a wide field over which his inspection extended. Some might have shrunk back appalled by the formidable difficulties to be overcome. Not so with Mr. Fraser. He entered upon his arduous work with assiduity. Nor did he relax his efforts until want of ability, from declining health and strength, compelled him. Although his ministry in regard to the time of its continuance was comparatively short, yet, in regard to fruits, it was long; more through the divine blessing having been effected, than in many other cases by a more lengthened ministry. His Great Master was pleased to crown his labors with signal success. There was a large increase in the membership of the congregation, and many of the young connected themselves with it. Mr. Fraser seems to have been a special favorite with this class of the community. Nor was this to be wondered at, considering the tender solicitude which he unceasingly manifested for their welfare, spiritual and temporal. "The work," says the writer who noticed his death in the *Summerside Journal*, "so prospered in his hands, that a few years ago his charge was divided, and his labors confined to Cascumpec and Tignish. As an increasing evidence of his success, and the esteem in which he was held, his people increased his stipend on two several occasions."

The pulpit ministrations of our departed brother were characterized by much earnestness. There was nothing in them to indicate a thirst for the applause of his hearers. He preached not himself, but Jesus Christ the Lord. He spoke as one who himself felt the preciousness of that Saviour whom he commended to others. He spoke as one who had a deep sense of the value of souls. I an unfeigned desire to win them to Christ. He spoke that he knew, and testified that he had seen. Those who heard him felt that they were present before God, to hear the things that were commended them of Him through His servant.

Our departed brother was noted for his prudence. The want of this quality in ministers has in more instances hindered their usefulness than any other deficiency. For one case in which a pastor has been separated from his congregation for un-