

goodly edifice now reared among us largely owing to the all but unrecorded merits of these great and noble men. It is a pleasure to recall these men and their deeds, and a labour of love to tell the children and grandchildren of our early settlers something of the character of those to whom the church of to-day owes so much.

Among these names none deserves a higher place than that of Alexander Gale. He was born about the beginning of this century in the parish of Coldstone, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, and like many of the great men of that day, such as Duff, Thomson, Candlish, etc., was descended from the sturdy middle class of pious, intelligent, Bible-loving Christians. When quite young he passed from the parish school to prosecute his studies at Marischal College, Aberdeen. There in due time he graduated in Arts. There, also, he studied theology, and was in due course licensed by the Presbytery of Kincardine o'Neil. As a student Mr. Gale was distinguished by his exact scholarship and thoroughness of acquaintance with every subject that he studied. His uncle, Rev. Henry Esson, of whose genius, extensive erudition, philosophical acquirements, eloquence, human-kindness, and zeal, many of us had experience while he served the church in Knox College so illustriously as professor and teacher of many subjects, had emigrated to Canada and was settled in Montreal as minister of St. Gabriel Street Church. Young Gale came out to his uncle in 1827, and for a short time assisted him in teaching in Montreal. He was then settled as minister at Amherstburg. This village was at that time a place of political importance, and presented a good field for the energy of the young minister. After three years in Amherstburg frequent attacks of malarial fever forced him to seek a

change, and he went east and became minister at Lachine. Having recovered his health, in 1833 he was settled in Hamilton. Mr. Sheed, of Ancaster, and other ministers on occasional visits had preached in the growing village before, but Mr. Gale was the first settled pastor, and under him Presbyterianism was successfully organized there. For thirteen years he laboured, abundantly beloved by his people and universally respected and looked up to by all classes of the community. When the disruption came his congregation went with him, with a few exceptions, into the new church; but he was soon after appointed to the chair of Classics in Knox College, which was then established in Toronto, with Messrs. Esson, Rintoul and Gale as professors. The Toronto Academy was also begun as a training school for the College, but it was open to the general public, and was well patronized as a day school and boarding school. Of this institution Mr. Gale was Principal, not in name only but in reality. Rev. Thos. Nightman and Mr. Thos. Huning were his efficient assistants. For eight years Mr. Gale was more or less occupied with the conduct of these institutions, and only when his health failed did he retire to his own home at Logie, near Hamilton. He did not, however, long survive the change, and on the tenth day of April, 1854, his remains were committed to their last resting place in the Hamilton Cemetery, amid the sincere sorrow of many private and public friends who mourned the too early removal of this eminent servant of Christ and His church.

Short though his life was, his labours were most abundant, and his influence in the church and in public affairs was most prominent. Mr. Gale was a "born teacher." He loved teaching and regarded education as the chief means by which the