

day at eleven o'clock. There is in the neighbourhood a large body of Gaelic speaking people, chiefly from Argyleshire, although there are some from Strathspey. The audience was principally composed of English-speaking people, of whom there are also a good many. From all that we saw and heard, we felt satisfied that soon this station alone would be able to support a minister. For the present, however, it is connected with Durham. We preached at Durham in the evening. Owing to several causes, the congregation was not large, but before leaving Durham we had opportunities of seeing the principal supporters of the cause in the place. Durham will soon be, indeed it is now, a very important post—the centre of a large and rapidly improving country. It cannot too soon have a faithful minister. In coming along the Garafraxa road to the north of Durham, we had pointed out to us the scene of a most providential escape, experienced by Dr. Burns on a recent tour to Durham. The horses in the vehicle in which the Doctor was travelling, ran off, the driver having left the carriage, and taken the bridles out of their mouths to let them drink more freely. After running two miles or upwards, over one of the roughest roads we ever travelled, they stopped at no great distance from a fearful descent, at what is called the Rocky Saugeen. The Doctor, providentially, was but slightly injured; but if the horses had not been arrested by the unseen hand of God, at the place where they stopped, it is difficult to see how serious, or, indeed, fatal consequences could have been avoided."

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#### THE FATHERS.

The mass of the first Christians were an unlettered people; this is plainly marked in the epitaphs from the catacombs, by their defective spelling, and still more defective Latin. Many of them were scarcely even a reading people, as the names of Asinius and Porcius, having an ass and pig appended to them, for the benefit of the unlearned, but too sufficiently demonstrate. The Christian writers, to borrow a phrase from Dr. Chalmers, were oftener "*ab extra*, than *ab intra*"—new recruits who brought their taste for literature with them, from the heathen Bar, or the heathen schools of philosophy; and were prone to teach, before they had thoroughly learned their lesson. The title of "Fathers" is not very applicable to such writers, but antiquity, and imperfect acquaintance, render every thing that is recondite venerable. The lives and writings of the Fathers in moderate compass, containing specimens both of their excellences and defects; just to their merits, generous to their unavoidable short-comings, would do a very great service to the cause of truth. They certainly, with rational men, would not stand high as authorities; even as witnesses they are inaccurate, as well as injudicious—their chief excellence is their frequent quotation of Scripture, but their interpretation of Scripture is inferior and fanciful.—*Douglas of Cavers.*

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#### OBITUARY NOTICE.

##### PRESIDENT BISHOP.

The Rev. Robert H. Bishop, D.D., President of Farmers' College, Ohio, died on the 29th of April last, in accordance with a remarkable presentiment of his approaching dissolution. On Sabbath, 22d April, he preached in the College Chapel, and told his audience that the sermon would be his last. He taught his classes till the Friday following, when the Session closed. On the Saturday he selected a spot for his grave, and bade farewell to some of his friends, as he felt he was just leaving them. Next day—Sabbath, 29th—his anticipations were realized, by his passing into eternity. President Bishop belonged originally to the Burgher branch of the Secession Church. He left Scotland, with the celebrated Dr. Mason, in 1802, and was successively, Professor or Principal in the Transylvanian University, Kentucky—the Miami University, Ohio—and Farmers' College, in the same State. Professor Cooper, in communicating intelligence of the death to an old friend and fellow-student in Scotland, now a Professor in the U.P. Church, says, "he has left behind him a name more venerated than any man who ever lived in that State." (Ohio.) Mrs. Bishop, an excellent person, who accompanied him from Scotland, died on the second Sabbath of May. For such there remaineth a rest.