

ly prepared by a familiar and friendly hand, and which we therefore republish :—

The name of the Rev. John McCurdy, D. D., whose death was announced two weeks ago deserves a more extended notice than we were then able to give. He was born in Onslow, Nova Scotia, on the 17th of March 18'8 and died at his residence in Chatham, New Brunswick, on the evening of the 1st of January 1868, in the sixtieth year of his age. In a note from a member of his afflicted family it is stated that "he passed quietly away and was conscious to the last."

The deceased was one of seven brothers and seven sisters whose father and both grandfathers were elders in the church. Five of his brothers were also ordained to the eldership, and one which himself, to the ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia. His preparatory studies for the ministry were conducted under the training of the late lamented Dr. McCulloch, with more than medium success. He was licensed to preach the gospel in the winter of 1831, by the Presbytery of Truro. Shortly thereafter he was appointed to supply the nucleus of congregation in Halifax, then struggling into existence, and which, several years later, was organized into the "Poplar Grove Church." His able ministrations in the city attracted full houses; and there are persons now living to tell with how much ability and unction he ministered to them in "the word of life." After the lapse of thirty seven years his name is fondly remembered by many within and beyond the bounds of the then temporary field of his pioneering labours in his Master's service.

In the month of May, that year, he was transferred from Halifax to Chatham, New Brunswick, to supply the pulpit then vacant by the death of the late Rev. James Thomson. Some five or six weeks after he had entered upon his labours there he received a unanimous call from the congregation of St. John's Church in that place. His ordination by the Pictou Presbytery, to the pastoral charge of the congregation, speedily followed his acceptance of the call in the month of July. With some occasional interruptions by the state of his health, he fulfilled the duties of his important charge with very great acceptance to his people, until disabled by his last illness, for nearly thirty-seven years.

His attendance on the meeting of his Synod was conscientiously punctual and exemplary. Seldom indeed was he absent although living more than two hundred miles distant; and he never failed to bring with him a full-handed and large-hearted offering from his attached people to aid in the schemes of the Church. In his place

as a member of Synod, he took a wise and independent course of speech and action, disposed to "call no man father" in the bad sense, and as little disposed to assume a lordship over his brethren.

The subject of this hasty sketch won for himself the esteem and confidence of the general community. Steadily and increasingly beloved by his own people he was not less esteemed beyond his own bounds. With the ministers and their flocks around him he cultivated friendly relations. With his brethren in connection with the Church of Scotland in New Brunswick, he freely interchanged pulpits with Christian courtesies and fraternal greetings which were as freely reciprocated. He was uniformly invited by these brethren, as occasions offered, to sit and deliberate in their church courts. Isolated as he always was by his territorial limits as to the brethren of his own religious body, he gladly availed himself of such times of refreshing with his brethren of the sister church in that Province.

It is not too much to add to this imperfect memorial of a good man departed, that he filled a high place in the esteem of his contemporaries. How much he is missed from his own domestic circle now widowed and fatherless, the surviving members of his family alone can tell. His place in the long matured but now ruptured affections of his attached flock cannot be soon supplied. It is no small consolation to both that before he left them for a better home and higher duties he had his witness and his record on high. From that standing point he yet speaks to them and says, "come up hither," to share with me the "well done" welcome to the house and home of the "Blessed dead in the Lord."

The late Oliphant Christie.

On the 11th of January Mr. Oliphant Christie entered into his rest, after a long and painful illness, borne with exemplary patience and true Christian fortitude. He was in the 27th of his age, and was a young man of high promise and superior scholarship and attainments. He had not much time for using the talents bestowed upon him, symptoms of the disease to which he fell a victim, having appeared about the close of his College days,—but wherever he preached, his services were acceptable and useful, and those who knew him best entertained high hopes of his success as a minister. Had he been spared, these hopes would no doubt have been realized. His term of labour in Bermuda, nearly a year,