

a telegram reached him in time to bring him back to see his loved father in life, although in a state of extreme prostration. It is a very remarkable providence that Dr. Burns should have come back to die in Canada, for whose spiritual advancement he had laboured so zealously, and within the walls of the College, where for several years he was so frequently to be found, and whose interests were ever so dear to him. In another column of the RECORD will be found a communication, evincing the deep interest which he felt, even to the last, in the welfare of Knox College, and of the Canada Presbyterian Church. The communication referred to was begun some days after his arrival in Toronto, indeed he was engaged in completing it even after the leaden hand of disease had been laid upon him. He still intended to make some additions to it, but was unable to do so, and we now publish it as it is, believing that it will be read by thousands with peculiar interest, as being the last production of the pen of the venerable writer, the last work of a public kind to which his hand was put, and as showing the very strong hold which the Church and her institutions had of his thoughts and affections, even to the end.

We do not intend to give anything like a full record of the life of Dr. Burns, or a full delineation of his character. This would require, not a few pages in a periodical, but a volume. His life was largely connected with the history of the Church, and with public events, for considerably over half a century. We trust that ere long there may be a memoir that will do him justice. All that we purpose in these paragraphs is to record the leading facts of his personal history, and some of the more prominent features of his character.

The leading facts connected with the life of Dr. Burns are concisely set forth in an article which appeared in the *Daily Globe* on the morning after his death. We take the liberty of quoting the following paragraphs:—

“Dr. Burns was born at Borrowstounness, Scotland, on the 13th of February, 1789, and was consequently in his 81st year. His father was Collector of Customs at that port, and was a very excellent Christian gentleman. Four of Collector Burns’ sons became ministers of the Church of Scotland. Though the other three never came to be so widely known as the subject of this sketch, yet they occupied very respectable positions, and laboured long and faithfully in the work of the ministry. The eldest died a good number of years ago, when minister of Brechin. One of his daughters married the celebrated Dr. Guthrie, of Edinburgh. The second son of Collector Burns was for upwards of sixty years the minister of Kilsyth. The well known Rev. W. C. Burns, Missionary to China, was one of his sons. The youngest of Collector Burns’ four sons still survives, and is, as he has been for a very long period, minister of Corstorphine, in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh.

“With his brothers, Dr. Burns, after receiving his preliminary training in his native town, went through a full course of literary, scientific, and theological education at the University of Edinburgh, and was in due course licensed in 1810 as a preacher in connection with the Church of Scotland. Very shortly afterwards he was appointed to what was then called the Laigh Kirk of Paisley and what some time after came to be known as St. George’s, and was there ordained in July, 1811. At the soiree held in Paisley some weeks ago, to do honor to Dr. Burns before his return to Canada, the Chairman, who had been a little boy at the time of the ordination, mentioned some interesting particulars connected with the Doctor’s early ministry. The connection formed was a very pleasant one; and, with