

hearts were cheered and encouraged by the arrival of our present revered Professor King, and the late lamented Professor Mackenzie. In reference to the latter, we shall only say, that although privileged to sit but so short a time under him, yet his name is embalmed in our hearts' deepest and tenderest remembrance. Possessed of a loving and affectionate disposition, he was endeared to all who were privileged with his acquaintance.—During the same winter our College sustained the loss also of one of its senior students, who was cut off in very distressing bodily circumstances by the small pox: but what to us was loss, to them, we hope, was eternal gain. Thus, you will perceive, that Professor King was left very much alone shortly after his arrival, and that short as our College has been in operation, we have been tried by many and severe dispensations. We are now, however, most happy to be able to inform you, that we are at present in more prosperous circumstances: and, indeed, we cannot refrain from remarking, that much, very much of our present brightening prospects is to be attributed to the diligence, prudence, and great fidelity of the present head of our Institution. As students, we shall ever feel indebted to him for his active and wise circumspection over the general interests of our College and Church, since his arrival. Last session welcomed the timely arrival of his present coadjutor, the Rev. Professor Lyall, who at present presides over the Classical and Philosophical departments. We can feel already in the increased eagerness of the students after, and growing taste for the general subjects of Philosophical enquiry, the amount of good that is destined yet to accrue from his able prelections in this department. We trust we are led practically to feel the great privilege and advantage of being placed under those whose natural tastes and endowments, as well as attainments, have so peculiarly fitted them for their respective departments; and in this particular, although it be hazarding an opinion on a subject beyond our province, we nevertheless feel pleasure in remarking to you, what we cannot but regard as a very prominent call upon our gratitude as students. A deeper sense seems to be pervading the Church generally, of the necessity and utility of our College, for the training of a native ministry; and a confidence also seems to be increasing more and more in the wisdom of its management, and in the judgment and discretion exercised by the Colonial Committee, in the selection of those appointed to preside over it.

Our numbers are steadily increasing; and notwithstanding our having lost two by death, and the removal of other three from considerations of health, we have this session twenty in number, besides some others who, although connected with the College, are unable to attend this session. You will be glad to hear that one of our advanced students has been licensed this last summer, and is now labouring in Cape Breton. We formed ourselves into a Missionary Association at the close of last session, with the Professors as patrons. A list of subjects, which are to be brought before the Association in the form of essays, has been adopted. Certain nights are also exclusively devoted to prayer and the reading of missionary intelligence. At a late meeting we were truly interested in reading the sixth annual report of your Missionary Association, and we sincerely pray that God may bless your interesting mission among the French Canadians. May your devoted Missionary be directed by the wisdom, and upheld by the power, of Him who has the hearts of all men at his disposal; and may he have many souls as his hire in the day of rejoicing. In this particular we are humbly attempting to follow your example. At the next meeting resolutions were brought forward, purposing to pledge ourselves as a Society, to raise a considerable sum for the support of a Mission among the Roman Catholics of our own land. These were adopted at a special meeting held for the purpose of their consideration since that time.—

Some of the senior students are in the habit of doing some direct missionary labor in and around the city. Several prayer-meetings have been opened in destitute localities. The Poor and Work-houses are now visited once a week.

In conclusion, Dear Brethren, we would express a hope that this may be the beginning of much fraternal intercourse between our respective Colleges. We need the benefit of your experience, of your counsel and prayers, and we shall be most happy to follow your example in whatever may promote the interests of the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.—“Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work, to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ to whom he glory for ever and ever.”

In name of the Students' Missionary Association, F. C. College.

ALEX. SMITH, President.

GEORGE SUTHERLAND, Secretary.

P. S.—You will greatly oblige our Association by ordering a copy of your *Ecclesiastical and Missionary Record* for “The Secretary of the Missionary Association, Free Church College, Halifax, Nova Scotia.”

Rev. JAMES CAIRNCROSS, of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, died at Blandford, on Sabbath the 23rd Nov., 1851, aged 64.

To the Editor of the Record.

DEAR SIR,—

The accompanying short notice of the last illness and death of the Rev. Mr. Cairncross of Blandford, has been handed to me by a relative of his, with a request that I would forward it to you, for publication in the *Record*. This I have much pleasure in doing.

Mr. C. was a good man, and a zealous labourer in the gospel vineyard. Possessed of sound judgment, well read in our oldest and best divines, and thoroughly acquainted with scripture, his sermons were esteemed by those who could appreciate the more solid excellencies of preaching, for their accurate, full, and weighty exhibitions of doctrinal truth, and for their judicious and earnest enforcement of experimental and practical godliness.

In private life he was remarkable for meekness, humility, and unpretending simplicity of character—qualities rendered the more noticeable in his case, by being accompanied with that air of pensiveness, which not unfrequently gathers insensibly around those whose lines in life have not fallen to them in pleasant places. But although naturally unobtrusive and retiring, he was ever ready, as became a veteran in the Christian army, to contend boldly and unflinchingly for vital truth; and he was particularly useful, we believe, in the district in which he laboured, in asserting and vindicating some of the less popular, but not on that account, least important, of the distinctive principles of our church. For this latter service he was specially qualified by his training, in the respected body with which he was originally connected.

Although not a very aged man, it may be noted, that he has been called by his gracious master from further service, just as the infirmities of advancing years had begun to make the labours of the extensive field which he cultivated, too much for his failing strength. What have been the spiritual fruits of his labours in this country, we have not at present the means of ascertaining, but it is doubtless in connection with such good men as Mr. C., who have occupied the remote and obscure corners of the vineyard, and passed through life “all unknown to fame,” that the great day will witness some of the most striking verifications of our Lord's saying, that “many that are last shall be first, and the first last.”

A MINISTER OF THE P. C. OF CANADA.

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.”

The following short record of the peaceful death of a servant of God, while it will be gratifying to those who were acquainted with the subject of it, may also serve to cheer on in their trying work, those of the Lord's messengers in this country, who, like him, have to labour in the out skirts of the Province, or, as it is appropriately termed, “the Bush,” exposed to the varied physical and mental trials to which their fellow-labourers living in the more crowded thoroughfares of life, are comparatively strangers.

The Rev. James Cairncross was, previous to his coming to this country, an ordained minister of the “Original Seceders,” in Scotland. In connection with this body he laboured about twenty-seven years, twenty-three of which were passed in the Orkney Islands, where his ministrations were blessed by God to many souls. Removing to this country with a large and youthful family, in 1815, he at once joined the Presbyterian Church of Canada, from a conviction that its principles were the nearest to those of the body in which he had been so long a pastor. Having settled in Blandford with his family, he devoted himself assiduously to missionary work, supplying regularly four different stations, in the townships of Blandford, Blenheim, Zorra, and Wilmot. The arduous nature of this work, when almost impassable roads, bad weather and bodily weakness, which would have deterred many from what he considered the path of duty, are taken into account, few, unless those placed in similar circumstances, can rightly estimate.

Four weeks before his death, he preached at St. Andrew's, in Zorra, three sermons on the same Sabbath, and being over-heated by his exertions, and the evening chilly and wet, he caught cold when driving to his lodging for the night. On reaching home on the Wednesday, his throat was also affected, and the illness thus induced, gradually grew worse, until exhausted, at length, by his suffering, he expired. During his illness, and while his sufferings were severe, he was frequently over-heard praising Him who is wonderful in counsel and excellent in working, and often he calmly expressed his opinion that death was near. On the Sabbath morning on which he died, one of his sons mentioned that at night he would require to leave him, and to return to his employer, to this he objected, giving as his reason, “for before evening I will be in Heaven with Jesus.” From the difficulty he had in speaking, much of what he said could not be distinctly heard, but his great theme seemed to be the blood of Christ, on which he dwelt, mingling with his allusions to it ascriptions of praise and glory to God. One of his sons seeing him faint, endeavoured to cheer him, expressing the hope that he would yet be better; he replied, “tell them not to mourn for me, no more sorrow for me, no more persecution. I am going to receive a crown of glory.” On his wife coming into the room he said he was “going to converse with Jesus,” and on her whispering to him, as he was fast sinking, “Jesus is with you, upholding you,” he replied, “yes,” and almost immediately breathed his last, and fell asleep in Jesus. M.

THE LATE DR. W. M. GUNN, EDINBURGH.

Extracts from a sermon on the death of this well-known educationist and devoted Christian, by the Rev. Dr. Guthrie:—

“The faith of a believer is not this, that Christ comes in to help us to pay our debts—that Christ is to make up man's deficiencies—to supplement them, and by casting his righteousness into the same scale with ours, to turn the balance in our favor, when it trembles in the hand of justice.—The faith of a believer is not, that the sinner is to do so much, and the Saviour to do the rest. No! His language to Jesus is—“My tongue shall speak of thy righteousness—Thou, Thou,