

ESTIMATES.

Have only twenty-five minutes till mail closes, and estimates have just come in.—Putting house in good repair, covering the principal ridge with galvanized iron, and repairing church and covering the one side with galvanized iron, \$600,—that is, Spanish dollars, \$625. I return this evening to Port of Spain, and we will consult as to what is to be done, and do the best we can. I feel very great diffidence about spending so much. I am afraid your Board will think it extravagance. But if necessary I suppose it is right to have it done.

I am, in great haste,

Yours very sincerely.

JOHN MORTON.

REV. P. G. MCGREGOR, Sec. B. F. M.

Obituary Notices.

Death of Dr. McCurdy of Chatham.

This event, already known to nearly all our readers, occurred on the first day of the present year. The Synod of the Lower Provinces was formed on October, 1860, by the union of the Free and Presbyterian Churches of Nova Scotia, and this is the first name to be removed by death from the roll of the united body.

We do not forget that we had then on our list the names of Rev. G. N. Gordon, Rev. J. W. Matheson, and Rev. S. F. Johnson, under the heading "Foreign Missionaries," and that these three received the Master's call, within a short space of time, and that the whole Church deeply felt these successive removals. But while the lovers of Zion mourned over desolations abroad, they had abundant cause for gratitude, that at home, the number of the brethren in the ministry, while receiving a steady increase from new licensures and ordinations, remained untouched by the hand of death.

But there is no discharge in that war, and this exemption could not, in the nature of the case, continue very long. The first summons has come to Dr. McCurdy; and we rejoice to learn that death neither took him by surprise nor found him unprepared. He, and his family as well, anticipated his departure.

His disease, which was bronchitic in ori-

gin, terminated in pulmonary consumption. For a time, hopes of recovery were entertained. The Dr. rallied from the prostrating effects of his disease last spring, and with Mrs. McCurdy spent the summer season in Scotland. The improvement was temporary, and his friends saw on his return that there were but faint hopes to be entertained that he would again enter his pulpit.

Towards the close of the year, it became evident that his time of departure was not far off. "He had been sinking slowly for three weeks," (Mr. Garvie writes) "and towards the evening of January 1st, he, as it were, slipped into the arms of death in sleep. He was quite calm; and I am happy to say the last days of his life were not afflicted by bodily pain. His last words to me were upon the text, "God so loved the world," &c. I feel assured he leaned upon the arm of the Beloved, and I am persuaded that he has a happier New Year than any of us."

We subjoin a few extracts from a private letter from Mr. A. R. Garvie, who has for some time been supplying Dr. McCurdy's pulpit, by appointment of Pictou Presbytery, and at the request of the congregation.

"His family telegraphed to Rev. Mr. Law of Richibucto, to come and preach his funeral sermon, but that gentleman was ill, so the duty devolved on me from necessity. Dr. Henderson assisted me at the funeral; the sleighs following were very numerous, over one hundred, and marks of respect to the deceased were very visible in this little town."

"Having only a short time for preparation, and conscious of the difficulties of rightly discharging the duty to which I seemed to be called, I had many misgivings as to the issue. But I trusted in God, and on Sabbath morning preached to a crowded Church, from the words which are my Father's epitaph, "He giveth his beloved sleep." God was kind to me, and made the services impressive to us all, speaker and hearers."

The last No. of the *Presbyterian Witness* contains a sketch of the life and character of our deceased brother, which was evident-