

THE LATE WILLIAM GORDON, ESQ.

It is with sincere regret that we notice the death of this well-known, honorable and worthy man. Since his demise we can scarcely think of Pictou town and St. Andrew's Church without him, so closely and intimately did he identify himself with them both. As a citizen he was one of the foremost in every good cause, and every true reform had his hearty sympathy and co-operation; while at the same time his balancing regulating caution counteracted in a healthy manner all undue rashness and haste. As a Churchman, however, Mr. Gordon had few equals in his day. From first to last, and through all his troubles he stuck fast to the Church of Scotland. He wisely "despised not the day of small things," and was as zealous and hopeful in days of weakness as in days of strength. From his youth up, having had in early years the blessed privilege of Godly parentage, he grew not only in the Church, but with her; and though modest and retiring in his disposition, his worth made itself felt so that while yet a young man he was sought out and called to the office of the Eldership, which office he adorned till his death by a circumspect life, by a vigilant discharge of his duties, and by a close fellowship with the ministry of the word. In Presbytery and Synod, when by turn elected thereunto, he made the work no sinecure, but entered into it with heart and mind, thus becoming at all times a wise counsellor and a judicious administrator.

Besides, he was ever ready to take the special work of the Church into his hand. When Committees were formed to take the oversight of important schemes he was ready and willing, and always, when solicited, came to the front; and though one of the most energetic and careful men of business, he never permitted his business usurp his whole thought, or prevent him from entering upon the work of the Church. Nor was he an ascetic in his religious life. His pleasure was to see others around him happy. In this way his companionship

was sought and enjoyed by the young as well as by the old. His house was one of hospitality to all, especially to those who loved to serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

How much he will be missed both in the Church and in the community we have not yet been able to realize; a full apprehension of such a loss will take time to grow upon us.

Many of his good parts and offices are brought out in the following extract from a sermon, delivered in St. Andrew's Church, on the occasion of his death.

IN MEMORIAM.

Funeral Sermon on occasion of the death of W. GORDON, Esq., preached in St. Andrew's Church, Pictou, October 10th.

After a brief exposition of 1 Thess. iv. 13-18, the preacher said: 'This day we are called to mourn the loss of one whom we could ill spare, had it been God's will to have continued him here,—one that has served this Church for at least 26 years, and to whose guiding hand it is, that we principally owe, under God, her present prosperity, William Gordon, Esq., descended of a good stock, and who maintained the reputation of his fathers, and of whom we may justly say "having served well his generation by the will of God, he fell asleep." You know the circumstances of his departure, how sudden and affecting these were, how that without any serious illness or apprehension on the part of his family of his approaching end, he fell asleep last Sabbath morning, exchanging the earthly for the heavenly sanctuary, and by a suddenness almost amounting to a translation entering the rest above.

You may justly expect from me, in reference to one who for so lengthened a period occupied so important a position in the Church, a more extended notice. Therefore I (while fully recognizing the services of others as I have formerly done) observe that when he undertook the temporal management of this congregation, things were at a low ebb,—a debt hung over the old church, services were very irregular, and payments fluctuating; there was a Sabbath School, but the question of a stated ministry for Pictou was a problem to be solved, and who shall guarantee the stipend? Mr Gordon stepped forward and undertook the responsibility of services being held fortnightly, and of a minister having his headquarters in this town. O it is a pleasant recollection how the first ten months were spent under his roof, and the