

The Disruption of the Church of Scotland produced its results in Canada. The Theological Students were divided in opinion; but six out of the seven declared their adherence to the principles of the Free Church; five of them after remaining three Sessions at Kingston, removed to Toronto. Mr. McKinnon was one of the first students of Queen's College, and also of Knox College. He was licensed in April 1844, in Toronto.

Among his fellow students in Queen's College, or Knox's College, or both, may be enumerated the following, Thomas Wardrope, George Bell, L. McPherson, Robt. Wallace, A. Wallace, P. Gray, Wm. Bain, J. Corbett, J. B. Mowat, J. Black, W. Sutherland, T. Dickson, and A. McColl. To those who knew him, it would be unnecessary to state that Mr. McKinnon was of a frank, open countenance, and naturally of a cheerful disposition. He was fond of society; but it was while in a circle of friends of like sympathies, that his qualities appeared to most advantage in their quiet native lustre. He possessed qualities which when called into full play, enabled him to contribute at least his full quota to the intellectual repast. He had a great fund of humour, and a keen sense of the ridiculous. Perceiving remote points of resemblance, and making a combination of such incongruous images as in the course of conversation or discussion were suggested, he excited laughter; and yet there was no straining after effect; and in telling others what had excited his laughter, he was not alone in his enjoyment. His power of sarcasm was uncommon. It was a weapon which he could wield with great effect. One of his most intimate friends, after witnessing on one occasion its effect, advised him to cultivate the gift. It is a dangerous as well as a formidable gift. The temptation to abuse it is often too great. It was not in his nature to delight in inflicting pain. He seems to have so seldom resorted to it, that few even of those acquainted with him, were aware that he possessed it. Sir John Romilly after listening to Wilkerforce's reply to an abusive speech against him, said, "I always admired Wilkerforce's talents; I admire his virtue still more, that rivalling Pitt himself in the poignancy of his sarcasm, he habitually abstains from its use." I believe that the principle that guided and influenced the great statesman, animated and influenced the conduct of the modest and conscientious christian pastor.

Integrity was a prominent feature in his character, hence his consistency of conduct. Meanness and cunning were foreign to his own nature; and in that of others, they excited feelings of repugnance, of which there could be no concealment. He was a man without guile. His yea was yea, and his nay was nay. No one, looking him in the face, could suspect him of duplicity. Capable of relishing the pleasures of friendship, and tenacious of attachments once formed, he would be willing to sacrifice the good will of all his friends, now great soever the pain might be, rather than swerve from what he believed to be the path of duty. Such men cannot in the common sense of the mind be popular in their day. It is more easy to build the sepulchres of the prophets, than to hearken to their words. He had to endure many evils, and to submit to many hardships, for his conscientious fidelity; and though it is unreasonable to suppose that he was never mistaken, yet knowing the character of the man, it would not be too hazardous to affirm, that the chief of his troubles is to be ascribed to the fact, that he was "too fond of the right to pursue the expedient." He was distinguished for the great respect which he showed to his superiors, whether in years or religious standing. It was only when years brought no wisdom, and religious profession was unaccompanied by practical fruits, that he stood aloof, and refused to bestow honor, where honor was not due.

His general knowledge was not particularly extensive. He appears to have for the most part confined himself to his proper professional studies, and pastoral duties. He possessed a competent knowledge of the languages, but his