

COMMISSION TO REV. DONALD MACDONALD.

The Synod being informed that the Rev. Donald Macdonald, Minister at Lochiel, is about to proceed to Scotland, authorize him to seek out young men of suitable qualifications who might be willing to come to this country and study for the ministry in this church, at Queen's College, Kingston.

PETITION ON SABBATH OBSERVANCE

The Rev. William Bain submitted a draft of Petition to the Legislature for the passage of the Bill now before the Legislative Council to secure the better observance of the Sabbath. The same is approved of and ordered to be signed by the Moderator in the name and by the appointment of the Synod.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF KINDNESS AND LIBERALITY TO MEMBERS OF SYNOD.

It was moved by Mr. Macvicar, seconded by Mr. Mann, and is carried, That the thanks of the Synod be conveyed to the Office-bearers and Members of St. Andrew's and St. Paul's Churches in this city for their courtesy to the Members of this Synod throughout this Session; to Messrs. Morris, Greenshields and Ferguson for their assistance in securing permanent travelling passes at reduced rates, and to the Grand Trunk Railway Company for their liberality.

CLOSING OF SESSION.

The Moderator then addressed the Synod, and after prayer and praise said,—

In the Name of the LORD JESUS CHRIST, the KING and ONLY HEAD of this Church, and in the Name of this Synod I appoint the next Annual Meeting of Synod to be held in St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa City, on the last Wednesday in May. One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-nine Years, at Eleven o'clock in the forenoon;—

Of which public intimation was made, and the Moderator closed the present Session by pronouncing the Apostolic Benediction.

Death of F. A. Harper, Esq.

Our readers will be pained to learn of the death of this gentleman, which took place at his residence in Kingston on the 12th May in his 70th year.

It must be nearly 40 years since Mr. Harper came to Canada, and during the greater part of that time he has filled prominent positions in this Country, first as Cashier of the Commercial Bank of the Midland District, of which Institution he was one of the originators and latterly as Commissioner of the Trust and Loan Company of Upper Canada.

In Mr. Harper our Church has lost a warm friend and staunch supporter. For many years he took a most active interest in Queen's College, devoting to the care of its finances and to the general affairs of the College a large portion of his time, and rendering most valuable service from his great business experience. Mr. Harper was also a member of the Board

appointed by our Church to manage the Temperance Fund.

During the past year we have had to lament the removal from our midst of many whose names have been familiar to our readers as valuable members and office-bearers of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland, of men who, like Mr. Harper, have found time to render good service to our Church, while actively engaged in business pursuits. A younger generation is being called upon to fill their places, and to imitate the good examples they have shown. May our young men profit by the lesson, and remember that their time, talents and wealth are committed to them by their great Master, and that the Church calls upon them to devote a portion of these to her service. This transitory scene is daily changing. No one knows what an hour may bring forth; some are called away after having spent a long life in honorable employments, while not a few are summoned before they reach their prime. Let us then be up and doing, for the brief cometh when no man can work — *Presbyterian*.

Arrival of Missionaries.

The Rev. Charles Campbell arrived by the steamer *North American*, and passed through Montreal on the 19th of last month, on his way to the Presbytery of London, within the bounds of which he is appointed by the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland to labour as a missionary. Mr. Cam is a licentiate of the Presbytery of Ayr. He has for a short time been minister at Dalrymple near Ayr. He has also been ordained previous to leaving Scotland.—*Id.*

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Power of Locality in Animals.*

LOCALITY, or the faculty of finding and recognising places, is a power, inherent in animals, without the assistance afforded them by which they could not even exist. They could neither find their dwellings, their offspring, nor their food, having once quitted them, unless they were able to distinguish the places in which they were left. This would not fail to be the case, were the objects quitted within even a short distance; and therefore the possession by animals of some such faculty is sufficiently proved by the well-authenticated accounts, which are so frequent in works on natural history, of the return of many animals from distant countries to the place whence they had been taken, surmounting difficulties which would seem to be insuperable. The readiness with which dogs distinguish their masters' houses from neighbouring ones, is merely an inferior manifestation of their power, and may be explained without supposing any exertion of intelligence. This faculty is very active in some animals; and, like other powers, it varies in individuals of the same species. Some possess it to an extraordinary degree, while others appear completely destitute of it. By it, appropriate organisation being super-added, animals are enabled to live in particular spots. As I have shewn, in my letter on the adaptation of animals to their various stations, there can be little doubt that particular regions have been set apart for their habitations, to

* From "The Power, Wisdom, and Goodness of God, as displayed in the Animal Creation." By C. M. Burnett, Esq.

which they are attached, not only by the circumstances of climate, food, &c., but also by the propensity we are at present considering, which in many cases operates so as to impel them, at certain periods, to quit one country and resort to another far distant land, in alternate succession. In proof of the influence of this propensity, I may mention, that turtles affirm, that if a turtle be transported many hundred miles from its usual abode, and again liberated in the ocean, it will return to its former place of habitation. Pigeons conveyed to great distances in close cages, so as to be unable to observe the distinguishing features of the country through which they pass, are capable of finding their way back to the spot from which they were taken. By this power animals in the earliest stage of existence are impelled to seek their natural element. Thus, turtles and ducks, for example, need no monitor to direct them to the water as soon as they are hatched. And it is this power also which causes the various tribes of birds to choose different elevations and localities for building their nests: some in rocks, some in the tops of trees, some in their trunks, some in their roots. It is not generally known that there are several species of rats, each of which lives in a different locality; one species lives always in cellars and ditches, another in the higher parts of the houses and upon high ground.

The operation of this power is further exemplified in the choice of situation made by the chamois, the ptarmigan,* and many other animals. When this faculty predominates very much, it gives rise to conduct almost surpassing belief. A dog was transported in a carriage from Vienna to Petersburg; six months afterwards it returned to Vienna. Another dog was transported from Vienna to London, and found its way back by attaching itself to a traveller in the packet-boat.† Jesse mentions the circumstance of a dog finding its way from London to Scotland, and another from America to England; also of an ass that found its way from the Point de Gat to Gibraltar, though it had been conveyed thither by ship. This faculty also explains the wonderful phenomenon of migration, which has puzzled so many learned naturalists. At different periods of the year, directly after the summer solstice has passed, we observe a variety of birds beginning to prepare for their departure from this to other countries, many thousand miles distant. It has been well ascertained, that in many instances they leave our country for a more temperate and uniform climate. It is by no means certain, however, that all birds have this object in migrating from one country to another. The cuckoo visits us first in April, when our climate is cold and unequal, and leaves us the first week in July. Judging from the various periods at which migratory birds arrive and depart, it would seem certain of them are appointed to change their habitations at fixed seasons, in order to keep up the due equilibrium of life in the different countries which they frequent. For

* "The habits of this bird are well known; but they cannot fail to strike every one who observes them as an instance of the adaptation of animal life to peculiar and unpromising localities. Closely resembling as they do the grouse, they seem to abhor the heather, in which the latter delights; and in no instance did I find a single bird of the species within the verge of that vegetation. It is only where the bare rock juts out of the earth that they are to be found; and no painter could imitate more accurately the general hue of the rock than does the summer plumage of its resident, which, as we all know, in winter, like the mountain-lark, becomes as white as the snow it then inhabits.—Jesse's *ANGLES'S RAMBLES*, p. 261.

† Sparsham's *Phrenology*.