

from leaving his native land, and urged him to take another and more congenial field of labour. This he declined, on the ground that his health was better when near the sea. For some time he continued his earnest work. At length his missionary zeal could not be restrained. He left New Brunswick in 1862, and proceeded to England to study the Chinese language. Eventually, however, he was sent to Burmah. There is little doubt that, like many others, he had underrated the extreme difficulty of mastering one of the most difficult of Oriental tongues, and had not sufficiently considered the difference between acquiring the knowledge of a language so as to read it, and the idiomatic use of a lan-

guage so as to speak it fluently. Be this as it may, we doubt not that his pious intentions were accepted by our merciful Lord. We deplore his loss in the diocese, where, humanly speaking, he might still have been engaged in building up a feeble church, and comforting the mourners in our Zion—a hard, but certainly not an unprofitable task. His age could not have exceeded 34 years. Cut off suddenly by brain fever, he was separated from one who had gone out to India to share his joys and sorrows, and at Moulmein, in British territory, but near the country of Burmah, he found rest, we trust, and peace for ever in Christ.

*see sketches book
2 Lem. 1862*

THE LATE REV. SKEFFINGTON THOMSON, L.L.D.

On Saturday, March 18th, the Rev. Skeffington Thomson, L.L.D., Rector of St. Stephens, was very suddenly called away. He was 74 years of age, and had been 44 years in that mission. At his first entrance on his pastoral charge, he found the few and scattered sheep without a shepherd, and great prejudices existing, especially in some of the country districts, against the Church of England. He laboured earnestly, and by his exertions, aided by the liberality of the two venerable societies at home, and by the parishioners, six churches were built in his mission; one in St. Stephens, one in Lower and one in Upper Milltown, one in the parish of St. David, one in the parish of St. James, and one in St. Patrick's parish. Of these churches two were burned down; the church in St. Patrick's has been rebuilt on a new and more accessible site by the exertions of Rev. J. S. Thomson. The church at St. Stephens, which the parishioners, with commendable zeal, were in the act of repairing, having been also burned down, Dr. Thomson was spared to be present at the consecration of a new and handsome edifice, the plans for which were the Rev. E. S. Medley. Thus, during his ministry, the late Rector saw the church rected, enlarged, and re-erected on the same spot, to which, soon after the consecration, his own remains were taken. The Doctor was also present at the consecration, and repeated confirmations in the new, handsome,

and beautifully situated church of St. David, erected by his son. Dr. Thomson was one of the little band of clergy who cheerfully assisted the late Archbishop Coster in laying the foundations of the Diocesan Church Society, to which the Province owes so much. At its very first meeting, September 8th, 1836, he was present, and continued to be its firm supporter to the last. In his ministerial work he was unsparing of his own labor, and even to the latest period of his life would often attempt duty which his strength would hardly allow him to perform. On Ash-Wednesday he was at church and read the Communion Service. Personally, he was kind and hospitable in no common degree. He had his full share of the ready wit which is characteristic of his countrymen, and he had ever a fund of genial anecdote at his command. He was courteous in manner, kind to children, and had a good word for every one he met upon the road, which induced him to stop so often in his journeys, that the horse he drove, long used by his old kind master's ways, seemed to think it his duty, also, to stop at the approach of every parishioner. In taking an affectionate leave of him, we purposely abstain from that fulsome and indiscriminate eulogy so common and so offensive to good taste. We commend him, as we wish to commend ourselves, to the just sentence of that merciful Father who "knoweth our frame, and remembereth that we are dust."

*History not such a month
he about my F. Province
X Old Society - Boys
Clergy
S. Selva
K. Dea
M. C.
M. C.
Pinner
Miss of
C. G. J. J.
C. C. M. A.*

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL CHURCH NEWS.

Our readers are probably aware that Dr. Colenso, the Bishop of Natal, some time ago published certain books, in which he attacked the inspiration of Holy Scripture, especially the first five books of the Old Testament. In the year 1863, certain charges of heresy and unbelief, arising out of these publications, were preferred against Bishop Colenso before the Metropolitan Bishop of Capetown, who, in concert with the other Bishops of the province, entered a public trial and time given for retraction, proceeded to depose the Bishop of Natal from his see, according to due course of law. From this sentence Dr. Colenso appealed to the Queen in Council, and the decision of the Metropolitan has just been reversed, on the ground that he possessed no authority or jurisdiction over the Bishop of Natal. It is to be noticed that the question of Dr. Colenso's heresy, or unbelief, has not been argued at all, and consequently the merits of the case have not been again gone into. The decision of the Metropolitan Bishop has been reversed, simply on the ground of want of

jurisdiction. So that the Church of England, as such, is in no way compromised by this judgment. It is a matter of great grief that the expulsion of one so notoriously unsound in the faith should have been arrested; and it will, of course, be necessary to proceed in another manner, whenever the true mode of action is pointed out by competent authority.

We regret that we have not space, in this present number, to give the Judgment of the Committee of Privy Council, *in extenso*: this we hope to do next month; but we may mention now, that the ground taken is, that the Patent given by the Crown to the Metropolitan Bishop of Capetown, under which he acted, has no effect or power to confer jurisdiction, or to give his acts the force of law. Such jurisdiction, in the case of a colony where a legislature is in existence, can only be conferred by that legislature; and as this has never been sought for, or granted, in the colony of Capetown, the whole proceedings, taken under authority of the Queen's Patent, fall to the ground.