

THE CHURCH AT HOME.

Death of the Rev. Dr. Steven, Minister of Trinity College Church.

It is with unaffected sorrow, which will be sincerely sympathised in by a wide circle of the public, that we record the death of the Rev. Dr. Steven, Minister of Trinity College Church and Parish, which took place on Thursday, at his residence in Great King Street here. This highly respected and valued minister of the Church was in his sixty-first year, and his appearance, not many weeks ago, gave undiminished tokens of a long career of continued usefulness in his sacred vocation. But, undoubtedly, the severe and protracted mental anxiety which he sustained, uncomplainingly, under the vexatious proceedings in connection with the Parish Church, so well known to our readers, at length began to affect his health, and a few weeks ago he suffered from a severe and sudden attack, which laid him on a bed of sickness for some time. He had apparently in a measure recovered so far as to be enabled partly to resume his ministerial duties; but on Saturday last he was prostrated under a second shock which left little or no hope of his recovery and accordingly, on Sabbath last, his colleagues in the ministry throughout the city offered up the most fervent prayers in his behalf. But it had been willed otherwise, and the Rev. Doctor survived the attack only a few days. The tidings of his dangerous illness speedily circulated amongst the citizens, and excited but one sentiment of affectionate concern in every mind.

Dr Steven was born in Peebles, and brought up and educated in Edinburgh, where he attended the High School, afterwards passing through the regular studies for the Church at the University. In 1826, he was ordained to the ministry, having been appointed assistant to the Rev. Dr. Anderson of the Scotch Church, Rotterdam, on whose demise he was unanimously elected his successor. While officiating in Holland, he distinguished himself by various literary publications, particularly by some interesting sketches of the history of the Presbyterian Church in Holland; and, during the same period, he obtained his degree from the University of Leyden. He had left many warm friends in this city, who never ceased to desire his removal to a sphere of greater usefulness at home; and this opportunity offered itself in 1839, when he was elected to the office of House Governor of George Heriot's Hospital. The duties of this situation are highly onerous, and require a rare combination of qualities, both of heart and head, to perform them aright. But Dr Steven, throughout his whole connection with the Hospital, not only discharged his functions with the greatest success, but so conducted himself towards both pupils and Governors as even to elevate the status of his responsible and important office. His manly, affectionate, and single-minded character, rendered him an object of cordial affection to the boys, while he maintained the discipline of the Hospital with perfect efficiency, and acquired for it the reputation of being one of the best conducted educational establishments in the country. In his own person, he was an eminent example of straightforward and undeviating rectitude of character. The Corporation of the City having thus enjoyed ample opportunities of appreciating the services and talents of Dr Steven, he was on a vacancy occurring in Trinity College Church and Parish, elected to the charge without a vote. In moving his appointment, Mr. Murray

expressed his strong confidence that only a brief space would elapse till every man and woman in the parish would confide in Dr. Steven as a friend, consult him as their counsellor, and honour him as their minister. That these high expectations were speedily and completely realised, it is unnecessary now to state: the fact is recognised by all who had access to know how devotedly the Rev. Dr. set himself to the discharge of his labours, by frequent visits to his parishioners and the members of his congregation, and by the unremitting, but entirely unostentatious charity which he habitually administered to the numerous poor in the districts. He was alike, beloved and respected by his people; and although he laboured for many years under the serious disadvantage of being deprived of a Parish Church, constantly exposed to the risk of being shifted from one locality to another, and compelled to officiate in a confined and unsuitable room, he gathered and kept together a respectable and increasing congregation, who were deeply attached to him as a pastor, friend and adviser. The congregation, indeed exceeded the accommodation provided for them, the number of communicants having nearly reached two hundred, in spite of every discouragement under the circumstances to which we have referred. No stronger evidence perhaps could be adduced of the eminently acceptable character of Dr. Steven's ministrations and the high esteem in which he was held.

Dr Steven was early attracted to literary pursuits, especially in the department of historical and biographical research on ecclesiastical and educational subjects. His works were distinguished for the conscientious and indefatigable labour which he bestowed upon them—accuracy of statement and minuteness of detail being their most obvious characteristics. Amongst other publications from his pen, we may note as the most popular, the "History of the Scotch Church in Rotterdam," 8vo; "View of the Dutch Ecclesiastical Establishment," 8vo; "Memoirs of George Heriot," 12mo; "History of the High School of Edinburgh." These works are eminently worthy of the subjects which they illustrate, and will connect his name indissolubly with the celebrated institutions to which they are dedicated, and which, it is but just to say, were fortunate in finding a historian so zealous and so eminently qualified for the task he undertook.

To those who enjoyed the friendship of Dr Steven, we need not dwell upon his personal and private character, so well befitting his position as a clergyman, and so strongly calculated to endear him to all who mingled in his society. Possessing great strength of character, and decided principles and rules of action, he was at the same time a sensitive nature and unobtrusive and inoffensive disposition, which shrunk from controversy and collision with his fellow-men. His benevolence was great, and only limited by his means. In the midst of his family, he was the model of an attached husband and father. In conclusion, we feel how impossible it is, in a hurried notice to do justice to the character and qualities of the lamented deceased. Let us add, that his removal will be regretted by none more sincerely than by his reverend brethren of the Presbytery, and his many friends throughout the Church.—*The Edinburgh Evening Post.*

Church of Scotland Endowment Scheme.

Yesterday a public meeting was held, in the Middle Church, Paisley, for the purpose of forwarding the movement for the endowment

of the chapels of the Church of Scotland. Sir John Maxwell of Pollak occupied the chair, and among those present we noticed the Rev. Professor Robertson, Rev. Dr McCulloch, Rev. Messrs Graham (Lochninch), Wilson, Alexander, Kirke, Ramsden, Macgregor, Brewster, Campbell, and McNeil; Alex. Gibson, Esq., R. Farquharson, Esq., William Sharp, Esq., John Hutchison, Esq., &c., &c.

The proceedings were opened with prayer. Dr McCulloch then addressed the meeting, and moved the following resolution:—"That this meeting, while it desires to acknowledge with fervent gratitude the rapidly increasing prosperity of the country yet deeply laments that the unhappy condition of a large proportion of the working classes both shuts them out from a fair share of the advantages enjoyed by their fellow-citizens, and exposes them and the country itself to the most serious danger."

The Rev. Mr CAMPBELL, of Eastwood, seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

The Rev. ANDREW WILSON moved "that the meeting is profoundly impressed with the conviction that the only effectual means of elevating the social position of the depressed part of the community, and of obviating the dangers consequent on such a state of things, is a fully-preached gospel."

This resolution was seconded by WILLIAM SHARP, Esq., and agreed to.

The Rev. Dr ROBERTSON was then introduced, and stated that the resolution which he had been requested to move was to the following effect:—"That for carrying the appeals of the gospel, through an active ministry of brotherly love, into the bosom of every family, the parochial system of the Church of Scotland, provided always the parishes be of manageable extent, is admirably adapted, supplying every facility that can be desired for the joint ministrations of pastor and people, and for thus embodying the complete idea of the New Testament Church." The rev. gentleman, after alluding to the very able way in which the previous resolutions had been spoken of, then entered at considerable length into an explanation of the scheme which they were now advocating for the endowment of chapels in connection with the Church of Scotland. He held that notwithstanding the successful efforts which had been made by other religious denominations for supplying means of grace to the people of Scotland by voluntary effort, yet that there was still a vast void to fill up; and from statistical information which he furnished to the meeting, he drew the conclusion that the increase of ministers of the gospel had not by any means kept pace with the increase of the population, wealth, and commerce of the kingdom. The plan they now propose was to create 100 new parishes in Scotland, by endowing with £2000 a-piece raised by voluntary contribution. The country had been divided into five provinces, each containing 20 of the proposed new parishes; and the counties of Renfrew, Ayr, Bute, Wigton, and Kirkcudbright formed one of these provinces. After giving some further information as to the working out of the details of the scheme, Dr Robertson concluded by making a most eloquent and powerful appeal to the meeting for their countenance and support.

ROBERT FARQUHARSON, Esq. of Allargue, seconded the resolution, which was afterwards unanimously adopted.

On the motion of Mr Graham, of Lochwinnoch, seconded by John Hutchison, Esq., a resolution was agreed to expressive of approval of the plan of provincial subscription for erec-