

The Committee on Sabbath Schools submitted a Report, hopeful in its tone, and evincing an intelligent appreciation of the importance of their responsible duties.

A letter of thanks was ordered to be sent to the Colonial Committee for their recent supplies of ministers.

An interesting discussion was had on the representation of the Eldership, and an overture with regard to it transmitted to Presbyteries for consideration. We trust that it will receive the candid and careful consideration which its importance merits.

A comprehensive Report with regard to the formation of a General Assembly of our Church in Canada was submitted, and the Committee directed to report a plan to next meeting.

The Sabbath Observance Committee also showed diligence, and the Synod petitioned the Legislature in support of a Bill to promote this duty.

The Presbytery of Hamilton were directed to apply to the Colonial Committee for missionaries for the Huron Peninsula. We understand that there is there much destitution, and a wide field for usefulness.—The French Mission was entrusted to a new Committee, who, we trust, will be able to place it in a satisfactory position, if supported by the Church.—The Treasurer of the Juvenile Mission reported continued progress in the interesting Orphanage Scheme, which has taken such fast hold of the affections of our young people.—A Committee was appointed to select some new versions of the Psalms.

The thanks of the Synod were justly awarded to the Directors of the Grand Trunk Railway, who on the application of a Montreal Committee supplied all the ministers with permanent passes entitling them to travel for one fare, and also carried the elders to the meeting of Synod on the same liberal terms.—The next meeting of Synod was appointed to be held in Ottawa City on the last Wednesday in May next.

From this hasty resumé it will abundantly appear that the meeting was an important one. It remains for our ministers, elders, congregations and people to be active during the ensuing year about their Master's work. Let them work while it is day, for the night cometh in which no man can work.

THE LATE HON. WM. MORRIS.

We copy from *The Montreal Gazette* the ensuing obituary notice of a gentleman who did much for our Church in Canada. It required no ordinary man to encounter the opposition with which Mr. Morris successfully coped in the Legislature and elsewhere in the defence of the rights of our Church. The Church owed him a deep debt of gratitude, and, now that he is called to his rest, many will mourn for him, but not as without hope, for in his

long and useful career he has left abundant evidence that he had made his peace with God, and that with him to die was his great gain. Besides his active public services in the cause of his Church, he was also warmly instrumental in the founding of Queen's College, and did much to further its establishment.

We understand also that he felt a lively interest in the Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and has left it a legacy of £100—the first which it has ever received.

It will be long ere we look upon his like again; but it will be well for our Church if our young laymen strive to imitate the example he set of intelligent usefulness and a Christian life.

THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE WILLIAM MORRIS, as we have already stated, severed another link which connected us with the past political times of this Province, and will make many cast back a glance at the political struggles before the Union, in which he took a prominent part, and to which he mainly owed his subsequent political position. His many friends, who mourn his departure, have yet the consolation of feeling that he died full of years, and after he had well discharged all the duties that devolved upon him in the course of a long and active life.

For some years past, from failing health and strength, he had ceased to take any active part either in politics or business; and eighteen months before his decease his wife took her departure, death having found her at the post of duty, watching by his bed-side. Yet, though the last years of his life were passed amid suffering and the quietude of a sick-bed, he was not in the bustle of their more active life forgotten by many friends. He had done much to write his name in the history of his adopted country, and the Upper House, whose dignity he had contributed materially to establish and preserve, did no more than was his due in placing on record their sense of his merits. One by one the veterans of our country are passing away, leaving behind in many instances, as in the one now before us, to their posterity the legacy of an honorable name, and the remembrance of lives of rectitude and usefulness. When such men pass from among us, it is well to recall the past and learn a lesson from the incidents of their history; and we have therefore taken means to prepare the ensuing sketch of a useful life.

The subject of this brief notice was born at Paisley, Scotland, on the 31st October, 1786, and was in his 72nd year at the period of his decease.

He emigrated with his parents, who were then in comfortable circumstances, from Scotland to Upper Canada in 1801. Three years afterwards his father, having settled in this city, was engaged in business; but, having lost a homeward-bound ship in the Strait of Belle Isle, and no part of the cargo having been insured, owing to the carelessness of an agent, and having sustained other heavy losses, he was compelled to close his business in Montreal and retire to a farm near Brockville.

In 1809 his father died, leaving large debts in Montreal and Scotland, and Mr. Morris continued at Brockville with his brother and the younger members of the family, helping to support them by his exertions, till the war of 1812 with the United States commenced, when he left his business and joined the militia flank companies as an Ensign, having received his commission from Gen. Brock. In October of

that year he volunteered, with Lieut.-Colonel Lethbridge, in the attack of the British forces on Ogdensburgh, and commanded the only militia gun-boat that sustained injury, one man having been killed and another wounded at his side by a cannon shot. In 1813 he was present and took an active part in the capture of Ogdensburgh, having been detached in command of a party to take possession of the old French forts then at that place; and, having performed the duty, his comrades in arms, some of whom are still living, speak in high terms of his soldierly bearing, and of the affection with which he inspired his men, during this early portion of his career. He continued to serve till 1814 when, a large body of troops having arrived in the Colony from the Peninsula, he left the militia service and returned to Brockville, to assist his brother in the management of their business there.

In 1816 he proceeded with the military and emigrant settlers to the Military Settlement near the Rideau, and there commenced mercantile business at what is now the substantial and prosperous Town of Perth, but which was then a wilderness. He continued for some years to bestow his active attention on the mercantile business conducted at Perth by himself and at Brockville by his brother, the late Alexander Morris, Esq., and, having prospered, in 1820 an incident took place that marked the character of the man and was an index to all his future career. In that year he and his brother received two handsome pieces of plate from the creditors of their late father in Glasgow for having voluntarily and without solicitation paid in full all the debts owing by his estate. Such respect for a father's memory indicated a high-toned rectitude that could not fail to command success.

In this year, also, the political career of Mr. Morris commenced, he having been elected by the settlers to represent them in the Provincial Parliament. He soon took an active and prominent part in that Assembly, and in 1820 took one of the leading steps in his political life, when he moved and carried in the Assembly an address to the King, asserting the claim of the Church of Scotland to a share of the Clergy Reserves under the Imperial Statute 31 Geo. III cap. 31. With no hostility to the Church of England, but yet with a sturdy perseverance and a strong conviction of right, he urged the claims of his Church, basing them upon the Act of Union between England and Scotland. The Colonial Government resisted his pretensions, but, 16 years afterwards, the 12 Judges in England decided in effect that Mr. Morris was right. In 1825 he was elected for the sixth time consecutively to Parliament for the County of Lanark, and on this last occasion was not a candidate. In 1836 he was called to a seat in the Legislative Council of Upper Canada. In 1837 he proceeded to the Colonial Office, Downing Street, London, with a petition to the King and Parliament from the Scottish inhabitants of both Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, asserting their claims to equal rights with those enjoyed by their fellow-subjects of English origin. He was selected for this mission by a meeting of delegates from all parts of the Province held at Cobourg. Subsequently he received from the Scottish inhabitants of the Province a handsome piece of plate, bearing an appropriate inscription as a token of their approbation of his public services.

On his return to Canada, in 1837 and 1838 he was actively engaged during those years in drilling and organizing the Militia of the County of Lanark, of which he was Senior Colonel, and twice sent to the frontier detachments of several regiments, going in command on one of the occasions himself. In 1841 he was appointed Warden of the district of Johnstown under the