

and will be of peculiar interest and importance to the future historian of our Church. It is called the *Pioneers of Presbyterianism in Canada*, and gives a sketch of our church's work in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, from the year 1765. A number of incidents illustrative of Dr. Burns's resignation, domestic character, educational views, and literary ability, fill the 19th chapter, entitled *Miscellaneous*. The difficulty of bringing into chronological order letters, jottings from journals, the autobiography, and kindred materials, must be apparent to any one who has ever perused a biographical work of this character. The 20th chapter relates the visit to Scotland, and last days of the subject of the biography, and the 21st consists of *Memorial Testimonies*. An Appendix contains a sketch of the early history of Knox Church, Toronto, by the Rev. James Harris, its first pastor; of the labours of the Rev. Mr. Bell, and of the pioneers of Presbyterianism, by his son, the Rev. Dr. Bell, of Clifton; and of those of the Rev. George Cheyne, communicated by himself; together with the addresses of Dr. Burns before the General Assembly of the Free Church in 1868 and 1869.

The life of Dr. Burns was full of incident, and there are few among his large number of acquaintances who could not furnish additional materials for his biography. These, we trust, may yet be preserved in some published form, and remain to help the portraiture of this great church-father. Amid the variety of incidents presented to the editor, it must have been a matter of no little difficulty to make selection of such as would be characteristic and of interest to the general reader as well as to those who enjoyed a personal acquaintance with the subject of the biography. The selection made by Dr. R. F. Burns, seems to us, in many respects eminently judicious. The whole life, of course, is not given, and no one biography ever could give it as it appeared to and affected many of the Doctor's contemporaries. But sufficient is recorded to point out the landmarks in his long and useful career on both sides of the Atlantic, to indicate the general character of his widely extended influence, and to present before the reader the most striking peculiarities and excellencies of his character.

The autobiography will be cherished as one of the most valuable gifts bestowed upon the church by one, who with his pen, no less than with his tongue, did that Church good service, as witness the long list of publications on p.p. 119-121, and others that issued from the Canadian press. The chapters on the Glasgow Colonial Society, visit to the United States and Canada, Professorship, Missionary labours, and Pioneers of Presbyterianism, are valuable contributions to the history of our church, which we trust will soon be written by some zealous and competent member of her communion. In the whole work is found one of the strongest links that bind our Canadian Presbyterianism to its parent stock across the seas, uniting the great hopes of our future on this continent with the glorious memories of the past.

The appearance of this book as a work of art is all that could be desired. The advocate of home production need not fear to lay it side by side with the best workmanship of British publishing houses. In every respect, the work is one on which the Dominion in general, and our Church in particular, have good reason to congratulate themselves. There are few libraries or bookshelves in houses of members of the Canada Presbyterian Church, we believe, in which we shall look in vain for "*The Life of Dr. Burns.*"