

domestic missions not equalled in any other sect. Ought not such facts as these arouse other denominations to do much more than they are doing!—*Eccles Record.*

HYMN BY DR. RAFFLES.

For the Early Prayer Meeting at Great George Street Chapel, Liverpool, on New Year's Morning, 1861.

Rapid flows the stream of Time,
Bearing on its troubled wave,
Old and young, of every clime,
Onward, onward to the grave;
Onward, onward still it flows,
Not a moment will it stay;
No impediment it knows,

On that torrent I am borne,
Onward to eternity—
To the land whence none return
E'er hath been, or e'er shall be—
To the Sovereign Judge, enthroned—
To the day of final doom
To the grave and all beyond,
Realms of light and endless gloom.

Since the year that's closed began,
O, what myriads it has laid
In that last abode of man!
In that deep sepulchral shade!
All their work on earth is o'er,
All their labor, toil and strife—
They are seen and heard no more,
In the busy haunts of life.

But we still survive, and now
In Jehovah's courts appear,
Thus to pay our early vow,
Thus to hail the opening year.
Father, hear us while we pray,
Let our praise accepted be;
Be the year, begun to-day,
Consecrated all to Thee!

Should we live to see its close,
Number all its days and hours,
May the Spirit interpose,
Hallowing all our noblest powers,
All we have and are is Thine.
Thine let all our BEING be;
Let us own Thy claim divine,
Let us live alone to Thee!

Should we die, and, ere the year
Finish its appointed race—
Should we at Thy Bar appear,
Stand before Thee face to face—
O, for mercy in that day,
All our worthless work to own!
While to each the Judge shall say,
"Faithful Servant take thy crown!"

Miscellaneous Articles.

CLOSING SCENES OF THE LIFE OF COLUMBA.

The closing scenes of the life of Columba are highly interesting. When near the end of his days the feeble old man went out, on one occasion, to the west side of the island, to see how it fared with the labourers in a field there. Having been drawn where the work was proceeding, he addressed them from the vehicle on which he sat, saying: "At the recent paschal solemniity I earnestly prayed to depart to Christ my Lord; but that your day of joy

might not be clouded with sadness, I was willing rather that my transit should be delayed a little longer." These about him wept at these words. He tried to comfort them, and returned to the college, blessing them as he went.

On the sabbath following this, while conducting public worship, he suddenly stopped, looking up to heaven, with a bright and beaming countenance. When besought by his disciples around him, to reveal the reason of this sudden transport of joy, he said that an angel had borne him a message from the Lord. His attached and admiring followers regarded the message as having some relation to the time and circumstances of his death, tho' he had not divulged its purport.

Next sabbath morning he went with feeble, tottering steps, accompanied by his faithful friend Dermid who had come with him from Ireland, into the granary or storehouse, connected with the college, and remarked to him, that since he was so soon to leave them, he was glad to see that they had store enough of corn to supply them with food for another year. Dermid asked why he spoke thus of his decease. Columba replied, "In the sacred volume, this day is called sabbath, which means rest; and truly, to-day is to me a sabbath; for of this my toilsome life it shall be the last. After my vexatious labor, I shall keep Sabbath. This night of the day of the Lord I shall go the way of the fathers."

Leaning on the arm of his affectionate attendant, he then returned to his chamber. He was weary and worn with toil and age, and had to rest half-way. As he sat there, an old white horse, that had long been useful about the place came up to his aged master, and, as if in sympathy with him, laid its head on his breast. Dermid, who stood near, tried to drive it away, but Columba forbade him, saying: "No, suffer him, suffer this creature who loves me; why should not the poor irrational brute lament the loss of its master as well as you intelligent men?" On coming near to the college, he ascended a little elevation, and pointing towards the building said: "Small and mean though this place may be, great honor shall be conferred upon it, not by the king of the Scots and this people alone, but by the rulers and people of foreign and barbarous tribes; saints also from other churches shall greatly venerate it." He then went into the chamber that had been set apart as his study, where lay open the Psalter, which he had recently been employed in transcribing. He was at the 34th Psalm. Taking up the pen he wrote the verse, "they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing." His work was done. He laid down his pen, saying: "Here let the page and my work finish together, what follows let Baithen write."

At night, when he retired to his bed-chamber, he dictated a parting admonition to the brethren, which was written down by his attendant. It was in these words: "My little children, I commend to you as my last words, this admonition—to have mutual and unfeigned charity among yourselves. Follow the example of holy men, and God, the strength of the good, will help you."

When the midnight bell sounded to summon the brethren to prayer, Columba rose

and hastened to the little chapel. He arrived there first, followed closely however by his faithful Dermid. Because of the darkness, the lamps not having been as yet lighted, Dermid lost sight of his beloved master. On entering the chapel he cried, "My Father, where art thou?" No reply being given, Dermid hastened for a light, and then found Columba lying prostrate on the ground. He raised his head and laid it tenderly on his own breast, thus supporting the dying patriarch. It was evident to all the brethren, who now crowded into the chapel, that life was fast ebbing away. They gathered with the deepest anxiety around their venerated leader. Columba looked up to them as they bent over him, and with affection and love toward them beaming in his eye, waved his feeble hand, as if bidding them farewell, and leaving upon them his dying blessing. He then calmly sank in death as if falling into profound slumber. After three days, he was buried by his bereaved companions, who mourned with a sore and bitter grief, the loss they had sustained in the departure of so faithful a friend, and so wise a councillor.

He died on the 9th June, 597, in the 34th year of his residence in Iona. "Such," says Adamnan, "was the termination of the life of our illustrious patron. He has joined the fathers and become united with the apostles and prophets. He forms one of the unspotted thousands who have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb, and follow him whithersoever he goeth; immaculate virgins, without fault before God; raised to their privilege by our Lord himself, to whom with the Father and the Holy Spirit, be honor, virtue, praise, glory, and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

Columba was canonized by the Pope in 1741.—*Exchange Paper.*

Proceedings of Presbyteries, &c.

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

An adjourned meeting of this Presbytery was held at Guelph, on the 5th day of March, attended by fifteen ministers, and six elders. Dr. Thomson of New York, and Messrs. T. J. Hodgskin, John Irvine, and A. C. Geikie, were also present, and were invited to sit with the Presbytery.

Mr. Geikie having informed the Presbytery of his purpose to proceed to New South Wales, with the view of prosecuting the work of the ministry in that colony, the Presbytery instructed the Clerk to issue a certificate in favor of Mr. Geikie, including the Minute, which appeared in the *Record* in May last.

A call to Mr. James Findlay, of Mitchell, from the congregation of Waterdown and Wellington Square, was laid before the Presbytery and sustained. Mr. McRuar was appointed to prosecute Mr. Findlay's translation before the Presbytery of London.

The Presbytery of New York having released Dr. John Thompson from his present charge, the Presbytery appointed his admission to the pastoral charge of the Galt congregation, to take place on the 18th day of April.