

t; mean tunes, or musical instruments of such a construction as are not now understood. Many of the superscriptions already explained were at one time thought to denote different musical instruments, and of course yielded no determinate sense; while another mode of exposition has contributed, in no slight degree, to the elucidation of the Psalms. Now, were the subject sufficiently understood, it might be shown that all the titles denote the subjects in the Psalms to which they are prefixed; the prominent idea in the writer's mind, and that which is completely interwoven with all the parts of the inspired song. The titles that have not yet received a satisfactory explanation are as follows: Alamoth, Gittith, Muth-labben, Neginoth, and Sheminoth; the most of which have been affirmed by certain writers to be instruments of music, whose very forms are unknown, and respecting which it is useless to speculate. This fact is well calculated to teach us humility, and to convince us of the important truth, that "we know in part, and we prophesy in part."

II.

### Miscellaneous.

#### THE OLD KIRK YARD.

O come, come with me! to the old kirk-yard;  
I well know the path, through the soft green sward;  
Friends slumber there we were wont to regard;  
We will trace out their names, in the old kirk-yard.  
O grieve not for them—their grief is o'er;  
O weep not for them—they weep no more;  
For sound is their sleep, though cold and hard  
Their pillow may be in the old kirk-yard.

I know it is vain, when friends depart,  
To breathe the kind words, to a broken heart;  
I know that the joys of life seem marr'd,  
When we follow them homie to the old kirk-yard.  
But were I at rest, beneath yon tree,  
Oh, why should'st thou weep, dear love, for me?  
I am way-worn and sad, and why then retard  
The rest that I seek in the old kirk-yard?

#### THE LATE REV. DR. LAURIE, OF WASHINGTON, U. S.

The following extracts are taken from a notice of the death of this venerable divine, in the *Presbyterian* of Philadelphia. His memory claims from us the record, for originally he belonged to one of the branches of the United Church, and always cherished the liveliest interest in all our movements, operations and successes. We knew him only as the "old man leaning," or rather tottering "on his staff," but he was such an old man as one seldom meets; so highly honorable, so hospitable, so child-like, that often as we have thought of Washington, of what we saw, and those for whom we were introduced, there Dr. Laurie was always foremost and brightest in our memory. He seemed to be honored as a very patriarch. The highest officials we saw, gave him the respectful salute, and led the kind inquiry after his health; and the President, the *Republican King*, when he heard his name announced as a visitor at the White House, threw aside all the restraints of court etiquette, and ran to the door of the room and welcomed him, and honored him as one who was truly worthy. There have been few Scotch ministers in the United States, who have risen so high, and continued through life in the same pastorate, and who have gone to the grave so full of honors.

In a recent number of *The Presbyterian* the death of this venerable servant of Jesus Christ was briefly noticed, and an intimation given that a fuller account would again be furnished. It is meet that an event so solemn, and, in some of its circumstances, so rare, should receive more than a simple announcement. Rarely is the Church called to contemplate the close of a pastorate of half a century in the same congregation; and when such an event occurs, it is worthy of special notice.

The Rev. JAMES LAURIE, D.D., departed this life at half-past ten o'clock on the morning of Monday, April 18th, in the seventy-sixth year of his age, and the fifty-third of his ministry. He was born in the city of Edinburgh, Scotland; on the 11th day of February, 1778; received his literary, scientific, and theological education at that eminent seat of learning, the University, in his native city; and was licensed to preach the gospel in 1800 by it, is believed, the Associate Presbytery of Edinburgh. After preaching for about two years, as a probationer, in his native country, he was highly commended to the late Rev. Dr. John M. Mason, who was at that time in Scotland, as a young minister of eminent promise; and at the earnest solicitation of Dr. Mason he agreed to emigrate to this country, and enter the service of the Associate Reformed Church.

Accordingly, in company with Dr. Bishop, late President of Miami University, and several others of his countrymen, the subject of this notice came to this country in 1802, in the same ship, the writer supposes, in which Dr. Mason returned. At the time of his arrival in New York, the yellow fever was raging in Philadelphia, which made it expedient for him to tarry in the former city for some two months; after which he proceeded to Philadelphia, where he spent a few weeks, and then visited Washington. The sagacious mind of Dr. Mason had selected Mr. Laurie a suitable man to place at the national metropolis, then scarcely two years old, but likely, as every one expected, soon to become populous and flourishing. In March, 1803, Mr. Laurie visited Washington, at the request of the members of the Associate Reformed congregation, then about forming. He once mentioned to the writer, that upon inquiring of the stage-driver, how far it was to the City, he received for an answer—"Sir, we have been driving through it for the last two miles." In truth, the city then existed but upon paper, and in the landmarks of the surveyor. Very soon after this visit, the congregation extended to him a call to become their minister, which having accepted, he was installed their pastor early in June, 1803. He had been ordained previous to leaving Scotland; and, shortly before he sailed, he had been married at Edinburgh, viz., on the 25th of August, 1802, to Elizabeth, daughter of the Rev. James Scott of Musselburgh. From June, 1803, until the time of his death, the subject of this memoir continued to serve God and his generation in the gospel ministry, in the important, but self-denying field to which he was first called. For the first three or four years he preached in the old Treasury building, which was burned by the British in 1814. Meantime, with great diligence and toil, he was collecting means for the erection of a church edifice. For this purpose he travelled as far north as Boston, and as far south as Savannah, visiting all the important intermediate places, and making collections. At that day American Christians had learned to give as they have since; and we can scarcely estimate the difficulty of gathering the means of building a church in Washington in 1805. Then it was a city, without houses or population entitling it to the name. There was no local wealth; and if it be still difficult to erect churches, with a population of near fifty thousand, it required much more faith and work to accomplish the enterprise then. But with God's blessing upon the efforts of the pastor and his little flock, the thing was accomplished, and a substantial, and, for that day, an elegant brick edifice was reared, and opened for Divine service early in 1807. It was the *first place of Protestant worship* erected in the metropolis. Within its walls our departed father continued to proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ for forty-six years; and within those walls his funeral solemnities were conducted.

Dr. Laurie has been identified with most of the important Christian and philanthropic enterprises of our country and our era. Whilst the New York Theological Seminary, under that great man and great teacher, Dr. Mason, was in existence, Dr. Laurie was one of its Directors, and often, in discharge of the duties of that position, visited New York. Of the Bible, Tract, Missionary, and Colonization Societies he was a zealous promoter; and in every wise effort to do good he was always prompt to take a part. He was on several occasions chosen Chaplain of Congress, and always commanded the respect and admiration of those best qualified to judge.

The biography of this venerable bishop of the Church would be the history of the Federal city, from its foundation to the present day; and his personal recollections of men and events would have formed one of the most interesting of volumes. But there is not space in this notice to furnish even the few which, at times, he recited to the writer. Some of them may be given at another time.

Few men of our generation were favoured with a more gifted and dignified circle of acquaintance. The college companion of such men as Brougham and Jeffries, and Wilson and Wardlaw, in his own land, (with the latter of whom he maintained a correspondence,) he knew personally most of the illustrious men that, for the last half century, have adorned the history of the land of his adoption; and it is no small tribute to his social virtues, and to his ability as a public instructor, that through so long a life, and in such a position as he occupied, he continued to command respect and veneration. The profoundest statesmen have listened with profit and admiration to his pulpit discourses; whilst his social powers and gentlemanly bearing won for him their esteem as a man. But it was in the bosom of his own flock, and in the circle of his more immediate friends that this venerable servant of Christ was best beloved; for there he was best known. Those who formed their opinions of him merely from his pulpit ministrations, which were always dignified and somewhat didactic, could know but little of the warm impulses of his affectionate heart. He was a man of more than ordinary warmth of affections; and his heart and his home were always open to the offices of friendship and of hospitality. When he was taken away, those of his parishioners and acquaintances who had known him longest and most intimately, deplored his loss most deeply.

It is difficult justly to estimate the fruits of a ministry in the transient population of the American metropolis. The Washington preacher preaches the gospel to an army in marching column. The good of which he may be the instrument seldom meets his eye. The seed he plants may be found growing and bearing fruit in the remotest corners of the continent; and if we consider this, in connection with the fact, that many precious souls who preceded him to the eternal world, and many who still survive him, bless God for his ministry, we are warranted in the belief that at the last great day many will arise to call our father blessed.