

THE LATE MR. WILLIAM CLARK.

Mr. William Clark, of London, died on Sabbath, the 15th of February last. As the worshippers were returning from the forenoon service, his spirit departed into the presence of the Lord in Heaven. From the great interest which he took in the prosperity of the Canada Presbyterian Church, and the valuable service which he was privileged to render in connection with her operations, he deserves an honourable notice in the RECORD; for we ought to avoid the guilt of those against whom the words were spoken—"The righteous perisheth and no man layeth it to heart; and merciful men are taken away, none considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil to come."

William Clark was born in the Parish of Petty, Inverness-shire, Scotland, on the 23rd May, 1807. His father was parish schoolmaster and also an elder of the Church. His grandfather, with whom he spent much of his childhood, was also an elder and a deeply pious man, and while residing here, he early received saving impressions of divine truth. His youthful gifts and piety attracting the notice of his friends, they intended him for the gospel ministry; but while the holy work contemplated was in harmony with his own inclination, the thought of occasioning much sacrifice to his friends by the expense which would be necessary caused him to decline the prosecution of the required studies. He emigrated to Canada in 1823, and tarrying for short periods in Montreal and Toronto on his way west, he arrived at London in 1834. What is now a city of over 20,000 in population, was at that time but a village of about 200 inhabitants. The Rev. Mr. Proudfoot, father of the Rev. Dr. Proudfoot, had just commenced his labours there, but no congregation yet existed in connection with the established Church of Scotland. The earliest visit made to London by a minister of that Church was by the Rev. Mr. Millar in 1833, who shortly afterwards lost his life by the breaking of the ice in the Bay of Quinte. Shortly after his visit the members and adherents of the Church of Scotland enjoyed occasional preaching from the Rev. Donald McKenzie, of Zorra, and the Rev. Daniel Allen, of North Easthope. The former had arrived in Canada in August 1834, and the latter had been appointed, by the Presbytery of Hamilton, a missionary to London and the Townships around it in November, 1836. From the first Mr. Clark's house became the home of the ministers and missionaries who visited the place, and continued to be so for upwards of twenty years; and on him devolved the labour of making all necessary arrangements for the services of public worship, which, before the erection of St. Andrew's Church, were held in the Grammar School-house, the Court House, or the Church kindly granted by some sister congregation as night, for the time, be most convenient. And on Sabbath when there was no public preaching, devotional exercises were observed in his house, conducted mainly by himself. Nor were his interest and labours, even at this time, confined to the place of his residence, for frequently he left his own business and became the companion and guide of the pioneer ministers in their visits to the new settlements in the surrounding townships; and in this way he obtained a knowledge of the Scotch settlements, and the settlers formed an acquaintance with him, which afterwards proved of great value in conducting the missionary operations of these localities.

Immediately after the opening of the first St. Andrew's Church, in September, 1843, he, Mr. John Michie and Mr. Alex. Ross were ordained the first elders of the congregation. But while these brethren in office were worthy fellow-labourers, and Mr. Mechie specially did much to advance the