

Obituary.

REV. JAMES PORTER.

On the 18th of April, 1874, entered into rest, at his residence in Toronto, aged nearly 62 years, the Rev. James Porter, Inspector of the City Public Schools. Mr. Porter was born on the 16th of May, 1812, at Highgate, near London, where some of his relatives are still living. He was admitted to the fellowship of the Independent Church, worshipping at Edmonton and Tottenham Chapel, near London, January 1, 1831, in the 19th year of his age, the Rev. John Lahairoi Davies being its pastor. Having devoted himself to the Christian ministry, he entered Coward College, London, an institution subsequently merged in "New College," but at that time probably in advance of any other among the Nonconformists in its standard of education. Here he also had the advantage of attending University College, simultaneously with the theological classes. The much-honoured Thomas Morell was at the head of Coward College; and among Mr. Porter's fellow-students were Henry Toller, Henry Griffiths, Philip Smith, and Joseph Elliot (late of Halifax, N.S.) He left College without a degree, as the London University, with which University and Coward Colleges were afterwards affiliated, did not receive the power to confer such distinctions, by Royal Charter, till 1836, after Mr. Porter's course had been completed. He was, however, a sound and accurate scholar, and maintained the habits of a student through life. He was married on the 15th of December, 1836, to Miss Agnes Dryden. His first pastoral settlement was at Tockholes, in Lancashire, whence he removed to Wareham, Dorsetshire, and afterwards to Crediton, Devonshire. In 1843, he came to New Brunswick, at the call of the ancient Church in Sheffield, through the Colonial Missionary Society. Here he continued to exercise his ministry for nine years, gaining the warm affection of the people, which was mani-

festated from time to time to the end of his life, twenty years after he left them. He was especially useful among the younger members of his flock, of whom the late Rev. Archibald Burpee and Rev. Enoch Barker may be mentioned as having received his warm sympathy, earnest counsel, and educational assistance, at that important crisis of life when they offered themselves for the work of the ministry. Hon. Isaac Burpee, M.P. for St. John, N.B., and Minister of Customs, was another of the young men who were under his pastoral influence at this period, and ever held him in high honour. On two visits to Sheffield, since leaving it, he was received with overflowing demonstrations of regard and affection. When, at a later period, the pastorate became vacant, he was invited to resume his former charge, though the invitation was declined. In 1852, Mr. Porter was appointed Chief Superintendent of Education for the Province of New Brunswick, during the Lieutenant-Governorship of Sir Edmund Head, who, not only in that Province, but afterwards on his removal to Canada, evinced a high personal consideration for him, and took a very special interest in his work. Mr. Porter resigned the Chief Superintendency at the end of 1853, and removed to St. John, N.B., where he established a weekly newspaper, the *Free Press*; but the enterprise was not successful. During the latter part of the year for which he remained at St. John, he was engaged in preaching, lecturing and writing, both in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, the cause of Temperance engaging his earnest advocacy. In the autumn of 1854, he made a visit to Canada, which led to his being invited to go to Windsor, C.W., as minister of a Congregational Church. After six months, however, he returned to St. John, and remained there for some two years longer. In the spring of 1857, he was called to the Church at London, C.W., to which place he then