

business quarterly, and the financial year ends in February. Sixty-two names are on the pew-books—these contribute about \$450. There is a debt of \$2,200 upon the building; steps are in progress for its liquidation; but there is little prospect of its very speedy accomplishment. Twelve copies of the *Record* are taken.

After conference the following finding submitted by the Clerk was unanimously adopted. That the Presbytery is very much gratified with the state of things indicated by the replies of the parties now before it—that the progress made is very encouraging, and that with strict attention on the part of each to his duties, greater progress still may be confidently anticipated. The Presbytery would incite the Congregation to increased liberality, encourage them especially in promoting cottage prayer meetings, and they would especially enjoin the pastor to hold diets of catechetical examination in the different sections of the congregation, as the best means of stimulating needful family training.

The Presbytery then adjourned to meet in St. David's Church, S. John, on the 1st Tuesday of November, at 11 a. m., and the meeting closed with prayer.

OBITUARY.

The late Roderick McGregor.

(Concluded.)

A citizen, scarcely any man in the community in which he lived took a more prominent part in all that concerned the public welfare; and with his incessant activity and orderly arrangement of his work, he was able to devote much time to the civil business of the country. In our political contests he took a lively interest, but, even in the fierceness of party contention, his opponents acknowledged his strict integrity. As to the corrupt practices connected with political warfare, which alas are becoming so prevalent among all parties, and in regard to which we fear that many professors of Christ's name do not keep their garments unstained—practices that are destroying the morals of our people and sapping the foundations of our institutions, we know not the consideration that would have induced him to have act or part in them.

As a christian, we know, that he feared the Lord from his youth; but as to his private feelings and exercises no man could be less demonstrative. There was with him nothing of that talking of experience, which is often the expression of personal ostentation. But none could hear him pray in the family, the social prayer meeting, by the bedside of the afflicted, or in the homes

of the poor, without a deep impression of the closeness of his walk with God; and those who, in addition, were permitted to converse with him in privacy on the inner things of the christian life, though they might have known him long before, were surprised at the depths of religious experience found in him and readily understood, whence came the inward supplies, by which the light which shone so brightly in his whole outward conduct, was kept burning with such constant brilliancy. "Did not he that made that which was without, make that which was within also?"

Two questions, which as we have learned, occupied his mind, may be mentioned as characteristic of the man, and as suggesting useful reflection. At one time he was not exactly troubled, but led to serious thought, by the fact, that he had no affliction. Was it not said, "Whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth?" Yet he could not say, that he had any trouble, and could he be the child of God? We refer to this with the view of correcting what we deem an error in the minds of many. We are apt to speak of affliction as a blessing. This is true only in relation to our present character and condition. We may say that the rod of correction is an excellent thing in a family, but it is only because from what we know of human nature in children, we may safely conclude that there will be occasion for its exercise, and that without it the results would be disastrous. But surely it would be a higher condition of a family, if there were such loving obedience to a father's law, and such constant watchfulness against evil doing, that the rod might be laid aside. So in the family of God. It is well for his erring children that God has his rod and knows how to employ it in wisdom for their good. But surely it were better that they should so act, that there would be no call for its exercise. While therefore under affliction we may feel thankful that we are not left to the evils from which it is designed to deliver us, yet we have always reason to be humbled on account of those evils in us, which have rendered it necessary. We speak now of affliction in its bearings upon the individual himself. There are doubtless other designs of it in reference to others forming an important part of the divine plan, to which we do not advert. But taking this view of the case our unhesitating conviction is, that instead of a state of affliction being in itself the best, prosperity is a higher condition and that the grace to use it aright marks a more advanced stage of christian attainment. Roderick McGregor was one of those children of God who needed no special correction, and his life was therefore comparatively free from trouble.