

## Communications.

### THE LATE REV. ROBERT KENNEDY.

This much esteemed labourer in the Lord, for the past twelve years, has been recently taken away by being thrown from his buggy, and so much injured that he died in a few days. As his sphere of labour was somewhat special, a sketch of his course is due to his memory, and will be interesting to many of the people among whom he moved and acted. He was a native of Glasgow, Scotland. As he grew up, he became strongly desirous of devoting himself to the service of the Redeemer of sinners, to the saving knowledge of whom he had been graciously brought. He was connected with the Free Church of Scotland. With a view to the Gospel ministry, he studied at the University of Glasgow several sessions. There was then no Free Church Theological College in Glasgow. It appears that his heart was directed to foreign missionary service, and he was sent out, in 1856, to Canada, by the Colonial Committee of the Free Church, of which the Rev. Dr. Bonar was Convener. After his arrival in this country, he studied for one session at Knox College, Toronto. Financial circumstances interfered with his further attendance there, and removed him to Prescott; and he was led to put himself under the care of the Presbytery of Ogdensburg, U. S., just across the St. Lawrence river, to complete his studies, not, however, relinquishing his connection with the Free Church in Canada. That Presbytery kindly assigned him subjects of study and examination, and after a period of time, being fully approved of by the Presbytery, they licensed him to preach, and at his request transferred him to the Free Church Presbytery of Montreal, within whose bounds he officiated for a time with good acceptance, and a call was given him by a congregation to be their pastor. However, it is necessary to state here that he felt a strong conviction of the great importance of using the printing press as a powerful auxiliary to the preaching of the Gospel, and felt himself called to do something in this way at Prescott, by publishing and circulating a small monthly paper under the appropriate title of *THE EVANGELIZER*. His position occasioned a difficulty of opinion in the Montreal Presbytery, as to his being invested with a pastoral charge. It is needless to enter into details as to what followed, only that he did not see his way clear to give up publishing his *EVANGELIZER*; and, being shut up, he was induced to add gradually to his monthly publications, by other three—*THE EVANGELIST*, *GLAD TIDINGS*, and *GOOD NEWS*, all of them fraught with evangelical matter, undenominational, and setting forth "the common salvation by the grace of God."

He retained his relationship to the Presbyterian Church of Canada; and being necessitated, for the support of himself and family, to travel on behalf of his publications, preached on Sabbath and other days in Presbyterian and other pulpits, according as opportunity was given. In these respects, he was always cordially received; and was held in favour by many, both ministers and people, of various church names, but all agreeing in Christian essentials of doctrine.

It is proper to say a few words respecting his monthly publications. There can be no doubt that along with his itinerant preaching, they were doing much good. The demand for them was ever increasing. Now that he rests from his labours, having died in the Lord, his works follow him in results edifying and saving to many precious souls.