

Induction at Fergus.

On Thursday the 3rd of May, according to appointment, the Presbytery of Hamilton met at Fergus, to proceed with the induction to the charge of St. Andrew's Church there of the Rev. George McDonnell, of Nelson and Watertown. During the vacancy occasioned by the death of the former Pastor, the lamented Dr. Mair, the Presbytery with much consideration had supplied the Pulpit at Fergus, almost every alternate Sabbath, and had seen it right to forward the views of the congregation in the translation of Mr. Macdonnell to what appeared a more important sphere.

The morning of the settlement was not very promising, but, as has happened on many an occasion on which interests far less important were involved, the day brightened and notwithstanding that the notice of the solemnity had been very brief, and only partially circulated, and that the season was the busy one of seed-time, the attendance was respectable. All ages were there, from those in the morning of life, and buoyant with hope, to those encompassed by the infirmities of age. Some memories there were doubtless of other days, and it could not well be otherwise, but we believe the prevailing feeling was one of thankfulness that such an occasion had called together those so recently left as "a flock without a Shepherd."

The Rev. W. Johnson of Saltfleet, presided, preaching from Mark xvi. 16. "He that believeth, and is baptized, shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." The sermon, and the addresses to minister and people by the Rev. Colin Grogan, of Guelph, and the Rev. Robert Burnett, of Hamilton, were all characterized by suitableness to the occasion and parties, and by the earnestness of manner and expression with which the great importance of the truths and duties was ably and forcibly stated and inculcated.

This settlement was cordially desired, by the members of our Church at Fergus, and is likely to prove highly beneficial to them, and the only subject of regret in reference to it is, that the advantages that will accrue to them from Mr. Macdonnell's translation are obtained at the expense of the loss of his valuable services by his former flock. There is reason, however, to suppose that the vacancy thus occasioned at Nelson and Watertown need not be of long duration.

The Presbytery of Glengarry.

This Presbytery met at Cornwall on the 16th day of May, and among other things the Clerk introduced the mournful subject of the decease of two of the ministers of the Presbytery since their last meeting. At the request of the Moderator, the Rev. Mr. Urquhart, minister of Cornwall, offered up a most impressive prayer to Almighty God, for comfort and direction under these most afflictive dispensations.

After prayer the Presbytery agreed to record the following expression of their sentiments and profound sorrow on this occasion.

While this Presbytery desire to humble themselves before God, and to recognize in the present afflictive dispensation His righteous, all-wise, and sovereign decree, they at the same time, with entire submission and resignation to the Divine will, desire to give expression to their poignant sorrow under the heavy bereavement that has thus come upon them, and at the same time to record their deep

sense of the high personal and ministerial character of their departed brethren, and of the great loss sustained by them as individuals, and a Presbytery, as well as by the Church in general, in the dissolution of those sacred bonds of affection, of Christian brotherhood, and ministerial co-operation, which many years of mutual fellowship had strongly confirmed and united.

And this Presbytery with sincere sorrow would take this opportunity, while recording the deaths of their deceased brethren, also to record their deep sympathy with the bereaved widows and families, commending them affectionately to the grace and consolation of their Heavenly Father; and with the congregations of Martintown, Williamstown, that have thus been deprived of their pastors, guides and faithful friends for a long series of years.

Mr. J. McLaurin, Minister of Martintown, was the first whom it pleased God to remove from his earthly labours. Mr. McLaurin was born in the parish of Balquhider, Perthshire, Scotland. When a youth of 11 or 12 years of age he accompanied his father's family to Canada in 1818; and after receiving a preliminary classical education in this country was sent back to Scotland in 1819 to enter the University of Glasgow, and to qualify himself by the prescribed course of preliminary study for the sacred office of the ministry, to which parental piety and affection had early dedicated him. In 1837 he was licensed to preach the Gospel by the Presbytery of Mull, in the Synod of Argyle, and in August or September, 1838, was chosen as assistant missionary by the Revd. Dr. Norman McLeod, Minister of St. Columba Church, Glasgow. In December 1839, he returned to Canada, and after a few months spent with his friends, and in exercising his ministerial gifts in various places, he was called to be their pastor by the congregation of Martintown, then vacant by the death of their then late revered pastor, Archibald Connel; and in August, 1840, was ordained over that congregation, among whom he continued to labour with increased assiduity and faithfulness till the day of his death, on the 22nd day of March last.

As a man and a minister, Mr. McLaurin was endowed with rare qualities of mind and body: possessed of a physical frame of uncommon power he was capable of undergoing great labour and fatigue, and no man ever spared the power, God had given him, less than he did in the performance of ministerial duties. He seemed to have thoroughly imbibed the sentiment and resolution of Paul, "I will very gladly spend and be spent for you;" and, like Paul, too, he had at times to take up the sad complaint, "Though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved." On the whole, however, no man's labours could be more highly appreciated. Mr. McLaurin was no less highly favoured in his mental qualities, especially the qualities of the heart. His intellect was at once clear and commanding, and always under the guidance of a sound judgment, and a correct taste, and nowhere was this made more manifest than in the power and charm which characterized his pulpit labours. And to an intellect of so rare a stamp, was joined a heart possessed of all the simplicity of a little child, and of all the tenderness and devoted affection of the kindest nature. To this, the warmth and steadfastness of his friendships, the ardour of his domestic and parental affections, and the unwearied exercise of the tenderest sympathy with the distressed, and of unbounded beneficence towards every human being that needed his aid or his coun-

sel, bore the most pleasing, and the clearest testimony.

As a minister of the Gospel, and a pastor of the flock, Mr. McLaurin was highly distinguished. In the pulpit he had few equals and as a Gaelic speaker he had no superior. From a child he had known the Holy Scriptures, and the great radical truths of the Gospel, as they had obtained a strong hold on his mind and heart, constituted the great theme of his preaching. His style was at once forcible and perspicuous, dignified but not pompous, plain but not mean.

As a pastor he was faithful and assiduous, indefatigable in his attention to the sick and the destitute, kind and affable to all his flock, and to none more so than to the lambs of the flock. Hence arose a strong feeling of mutual and reciprocal affection between minister and people,—and affection but too suddenly and unexpectedly torn asunder by the stroke of death.

It was in the arduous discharge of an act of pastoral duty, from which his high sense of the sacredness of an engagement already made would not allow him shrink, when even the elements in one of our severest Canadian March storms would have seemed a call from Providence to restrain him, that he contracted that mortal disease which, after a day and a night of indescribable suffering, terminated his earthly labours. As a member of Presbytery and of the higher Court Mr. McLaurin was more a modest observer than an obtrusive actor, being often diffident of himself, when inferior men were confident. His judgment on ecclesiastical matters was, however, always discriminative and just. And no man ever yielded to the wishes of his brethren in any act of imposed duty with a sweeter grace, or greater readiness, than he was wont to do. While at the same time his brethren, both of his own and other Presbyteries, never can forget the cheerful and graceful readiness, with which he came to their aid on any moment of emergency. In a word no man ever established higher claims on the affection and regard of all his brethren than the lamented deceased.

Such is a brief and most imperfect sketch of one of those brethren over whose death, in the vigor of his days, and in the meridian of his usefulness, this Presbytery are this day called to mourn.

Mr. John McKenzie, minister of Williamstown, was the next whom it pleased God to remove from the midst of us. Mr. McKenzie was born at Fort Augustus, parish of Bolekine, Inverness-shire, Scotland, in May, 1799. Like Mr. McLaurin he was from his youth dedicated to the sacred office of the ministry by the devoted piety of Christian parents. After completing that simple, yet substantial and efficient course of preliminary education, which is furnished in the parochial schools of Scotland, Mr. McKenzie was removed to the University and King's College, Aberdeen, and such was his proficiency in his preparatory education, that he carried the first competitors over many rivals on entering College. During his course he was distinguished alike for his industry and exemplary deportment. Like most young men of his standing his vacations were devoted to the instruction of youth, first, as teacher of the Parish School of Urquhart, in the Presbytery of Inverness, and afterwards as assistant teacher in the Grammar School of Old Aberdeen. After finishing his College course, he was licensed to preach the Gospel by the Presbytery of Aberdeen in 1819, about which time he received a call to become their pastor from the congregation of Williams-