

OBITUARY.

Our readers are already apprised of the death of the late Rev. ALEXANDER LOWDEN, of the U. P. Congregation of New Glasgow, C. E. He died after a short illness, of inflammation of the bowels, at Claremont, near Pickering, in the 49th year of his age, and the 15th of his ministry. As a minister he "commended himself to every man's conscience in the sight of God," both by the faithfulness and ability with which he discharged his public labours, and the excellence of his life and character. He was held in the highest esteem, not only by the people of his own charge, but by the inhabitants of the settlement generally, whether Protestant or Catholic; a proof of which was given in the universal pang of regret caused by his unexpected decease, and the extraordinary concourse of all denominations that assembled at his funeral, to show their respect for his memory. There are but few families in the settlement that have not had experience, either of his faithfulness as a minister, or his benevolence as a friend.

His congregation in New Glasgow was small, and his remuneration consequently very inadequate. But though frequently advised to leave it, such was his affectionate attachment to his people, and, it may be added, the humble estimate which he formed of his own worth, that he refused to do so. Latterly, however, he found that he could not remain without involving himself in debt. And though he was willing to continue and labour on still, provided he could obtain only a bare sufficiency for his family, yet when he saw nothing but the prospect of becoming more and more hopelessly involved in debt, he did not think it his duty to remain;—a conclusion in which every one will concur with him. It was under this conviction that he resolved to visit the vacancies in Canada West; in course of which his labours were so unexpectedly brought to a close by death. By this event our church has been deprived of a worthy and most disinterested labourer; his flock has been left without a shepherd; and his family not only plunged in sorrow, but left *entirely without support.*

For the three last years of his ministry, he received only £188 from his congregation, to which £60 were added by the Presbytery of Canada East. This made his annual stipend only a little more than £82 a year; and considering the high price of all the necessaries of life during these years, our readers will not be surprised that he has left his family, consisting of a widow and five children, considerably in debt. And now what is to be done for them? Are they to be left in their straits? No! The Church is to receive this family as a charge committed to them by God, in circumstances which are fitted to touch every heart, and open the fountains of Christian sympathy. We have, as yet, no Widows' Fund in Canada, but in the want of this, the Synod has recommended that collections or subscriptions be made in all our congregations to raise a fund which will not only deliver the family from present embarrassments, but yield annually something for the future. The members of Synod, with commendable promptitude, raised a subscription amongst themselves on the spot, which amounted to £20; and several congregations have already sent their contributions to the Treasurer, (Rev. Dr. Taylor, Montreal), and as will be seen from the subjoined list, these are on a scale of praiseworthy liberality.

In his sickness Mr. Lowden had no fear about his own state; he had always, he said, found the Saviour precious to him, and he was doubly precious on a dying bed; but he was greatly distressed about the state of his family. And will not the members of our Church come to their help, and thereby testify before God their acceptance of the trust which he now devolves upon them (for these fatherless children are the *wards* of the Church); and thereby declare also before men their approbation of Mr. Lowden's devotedness during fifteen years of self-denying, self-sacrificing labour. "Pure religion and undefiled before God, even the Father, is this, to visit the fatherless, and widows in their affliction."

The following sums have been already received:—From members of Synod, £20. Toronto (first,) £29 7s 6d. Toronto (second,) £24 15s.* Lake Shore, £3 7s 1½d. Hamilton, £24. Esqueness, £2. Pickering, £10 10s. Montreal, £50.

* This does not include £1 5s. previously given towards the expenses of those who brought Mr. Lowden's body to Montreal.)