

comparatively new, our letters had never reached ; but this made little difference ; for, by prompt and willing efforts, we had excellent meetings, especially on new year's day, at three distinct points ; one of our meetings embracing a most interesting and satisfactory examination of the advanced classes of the Sabbath School. Immediately after parting with Mr. Morrison on the morning of January 2nd, and after riding in the mail sleigh about ten miles towards Orangeville, I was met by our excellent friend Mr. William Burns, who had, with most disinterested kindness, offered his services (as other friends in the city had also done) to trace me out, and give me information of the severe illness of my son. I had intended striking off from Orangeville to Garafraxa and Fergus, where different preaching engagements had been fixed for me, up to the evening of Tuesday, January 7th. Had it not been for the prompt and skilful tact of Mr. Burns, I might not have seen my distressed son in life ; yea, his dear remains might have been consigned to their narrow resting place, to be seen by me again only far off on the resurrection morn. As it was, we had painfully affecting intercourse during the last two days of his life below, although for part of the second day he had sunk into a calm and fatal slumber. My son Robert had been telegraphed for to Chicago, and had arrived seven hours before me. Around the couch of a beloved son, brother, and husband, all the near relatives within reach, were gathered ; and many endeared friends, though not related as kindred, lent their sympathizing and much valued aid, in all the varied forms of considerate kindness. His expressions of resignation, of confidence, and of believing hope, were frequent and satisfying ; his prayers earnest and appropriate ; his inward peace, to our view, serene. For several years past, he had shown a decided preference for the things of God. By daily perusal of the scriptures, by closet and domestic devotion ; by regular attendances on the ordinances of grace and on the congregational meetings for prayer ; by readiness to aid substantially the cause of missions at home and abroad ; and, in some instances, by religious correspondences with relatives, together with a consistent walk ; he had given satisfactory proof of the reality of his personal religion ; while his recent election to the deacon's office, in Knox's Church, was a good proof of the estimation in which he was held by his fellow-members in the church. The appropriate and truly excellent discourse, on the morning of the Sabbath after the funeral, was to my mind and the feelings of all who heard it, a pleasing proof of the high sense entertained by both pastor and people of the real value of his character, and the greatness of their loss. The gratification afforded to the weeping widow, to myself, and to the whole circle of relatives, by the following "extract from the minutes of the Deacon's Court" can be more easily conceived than expressed :

"The Members of this court, impressed with the fact that one of their number, Mr. William Hamilton Burns, has, since their last meeting, and after a short illness, been removed by the stroke of death, resolve to place on record, as they hereby do, their sincere regret at his unexpected removal from amongst them—their high estimate of his christian character and conduct ; and their deep sense of the loss which by this event they and the congregation have sustained, in that they are now deprived of his presence, and counsel, and active services, in the work of the Lord amongst them.

"At the same time, whilst mourning over this painful event by which, one, in the prime and vigour of life, and just entering on the duties of the office of Deacon in the congregation has been called away from the church on earth, the members of this court humbly recognize the sovereignty of God, who worketh all things according to His own purpose and will ; and