

## The Death of Hew Ramsay, Esq.

We are called upon to discharge a melancholy duty in chronicling the passing away of a good man from our midst. Many of our readers will, ere this, have learned the lamented death of Hew Ramsay, Esq., though many of them, from his retiring character, may not have been aware of his real unobtrusive worth. It is not our purpose to write a biographical notice of our departed friend, nor to utter a word in eulogy. Aught that we may say shall be the words of truth and soberness, tinged and hallowed, as these may be, by keen feelings of sorrow. Hew Ramsay was born in Edinburgh in 1811, and after receiving a good education entered the office of a writer to the signet, and went through the study of a regular course of Law, a knowledge which in after life, while aiding some benevolent scheme or discharging some important public duty, he often turned to practical account. He emigrated to Canada in 1832, and, settling in Montreal, entered a mercantile office, and eventually commenced business as a bookseller and publisher. He at one time owned and published the Montreal Gazette, but disposed of it, in order to confine himself to his legitimate business. He took a warm interest in fostering the native literature of Canada, and in supplying, in the shape of the works of good authors, sound mental nutriment to the minds of the people. He was especially active in introducing system into the common schools by placing within reach reprints of the Irish School books, of which he applied for and obtained permission to issue reprints for Canadian use. He also prepared valuable editions of several Latin classic authors, and issued a history of Canada in both languages, a Geography and Guidebook of the same, and also a number of cheap Scripture and general maps. He felt a deep interest in the cause of Education, and was one of the Governors of McGill College, in the affairs of which institution he took an active part. In private life he was esteemed and beloved; as a public man, his judgement was sound and his opinion respected; as a Christian, who carried about with him, as he believed, premonitions of early dissolution, he was active, benevolent, judicious and zealous. An elder of the Church of Scotland, he took a warm and unflagging interest in all that concerned her. He was one of the founders and active members of the Lay Association. He was the publisher of the *Presbyterian* for the first year, and for some time a valued contributor to its columns, for which, even till lately, he found pleasure in writing occasional paragraphs, or cutting out a selection. He was entrusted by our Synod with the monies remitted by our congregations for the National Patriotic Fund, a task which he discharged with his wonted energy and zeal. He was long one of the Clergy Reserve Commissioners, and in that capacity was always zealous, attentive to his duties, and conscientious in discharging them. He was also the secretary and in fact the manager of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund Board. Practically acquainted with the system of life annuities, his experience and knowledge was invaluable to the Board, and he was painstaking in the extreme in discharging his duties towards the Fund. One of his last works, as a member of this Board, was the preparation of the average of contributions of the various congregations, and the drawing up of a revised scheme of annuities, of which several Widows and Orphans now enjoy the benefit, while one of his last public duties was the conducting of the correspondence which led to the settlement of Mr. Snodgrass as Pas-

tor of St. Paul's Church. Such was the man and such his labors. Cut down in his prime, when but 46 years of age, he leaves a widow and two children to mourn their bereavement; but his sorrowing friends may find comfort in the belief that with him "to die was gain." "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"—*Canadian Presbyterian*.

## Queen's College, Kingston, as others see it.

A little in the rear of the Hospital, on a rising knoll of ground, stands Queen's College, an imposing structure, erected some years ago for a private residence, and recently purchased by the Trustees of Queen's College, at a cost of £5,000. This institution is connected with the Canadian branch of the Church of Scotland. The University includes three faculties, viz Theology, Arts and Medicine. The two last, are open to all students without reference to religious belief. In the faculties of Arts and Theology there are now three Professors; the Rev. Dr. George, Vice-Principal, the Rev. Dr. Williamson, and the Rev. Professor Weir. A vacancy was caused by the sudden death of Rev Professor Smith in August last, which has not yet been supplied. We understand that steps are now being taken to fill the vacant chair, and also to secure the services of a Principal. In these two departments the course of instruction is very thorough and complete, the classes being conducted by men of ability and learning. The number of students we believe, is about 40. A Preparatory School conducted by a graduate, is connected with the College. The Medical Department is conducted by the leading practitioners in Kingston, and although only two years and a half in operation it has acquired a high character. The first session there were 26 students, the second 47, while this session we understand, the number is about 60.—*Montreal Witness*.

## Congregation of St. Andrew's, St. John's, Newfoundland.

We heard incidentally from a friend the other day some cheering accounts of the prosperous state of our Church in St. John's, Newfoundland. We do not value the information any the less because of the incidental way in which it reached us, but the circumstance confirms us in the opinion we have frequently expressed, that ministers and members of our Church are far too remiss in communicating ecclesiastical intelligence. We would not certainly have them to be continually blowing and boasting for the mere sake of display, but we would have them to remember that, besides the cheering influence which good news of our Church from any quarter is fitted to exert upon the spirit of all who are really interested in her welfare, there is a moral force for good in a praise-worthy example which can hardly be over-rated. If this be so, and if the view we express be in any degree a reflection of our Saviour's mind when He said, "Let your light so shine before men," &c., whatever else there is, surely there is responsibility in the matter.

In St. John's, Newfoundland, shut out from one end of the year to the other from all personal intercourse with his brethren, the Rev. Francis Nicol ministers to a united, attached and spirited congregation. It is not very large but numbers do not always indicate willingness or ability. During the past year, ending in

December last, they raised among themselves considerably upwards of one thousand pounds—£400 to redeem a mortgage on the church—nearly £350 for expenses connected with a day-school maintained by the congregation—aided by a legislative provision of £10 sterling annuum—and about £330 for current expenses. As the fruits of their own well-timed industry, the congregation have now the satisfaction of worshipping in a church entirely free of debt and of having under their sole control a well-managed and prosperous school, with a dwelling house and piece of ground for the use of a teacher, free from every encumbrance. It is creditable alike to the pastor and the people and is a pleasing manifestation of the zeal and responsibility which they mutually attach to the tie which unites them.—*Presbyterian*.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### London City Mission.

This Society was formed for the purpose of assisting in the removal of the overwhelming spiritual destitution of the metropolis.

That there is a larger proportionate amount of spiritual destitution in the metropolis than is to be found in any other part of the kingdom, has been repeatedly proved by statistics of unquestionable authority. For a population resident within Mr. Rickman's metropolitan boundaries, estimated in 1856 at about 2,700,000, there is scarcely accommodation in places of worship for 800,000, and so small is the aggregate attendance at these churches and chapels, that every Sunday morning or evening a number of persons larger than the entire population of all the other cities in England and Wales added together, will fully cross the threshold of the house of God in London! So that there are about as many wilful neglectors of the means of grace within these metropolitan boundaries as there are inhabitants in the whole of the Principality of Wales! These calculations are alarmingly true, even after making all due allowance for those who are unable to attend, through age and other circumstances over which they have no control.

The Census Commissioner calculates that if Church and Chapel accommodation for 50 per cent. of the population were supplied, there would be ample provision for all who could be present at public worship "at once and the same time." Now in the entire kingdom 57 in every hundred of the population were, at the last census, provided with Church and Chapel accommodation, so that, according to this calculation, it has in this respect nearly a full provision for the spiritual exigencies of its inhabitants. This gratifying fact forms a striking contrast with the spiritual destitution of the metropolis. In London, in 1851, less than 30 in every 100 of the population were provided with Church and Chapel accommodation, so that nearly a million persons capable of attending public worship, were then resident within the eight mile radius from St. Paul's cathedral, for which no provision was made. At the most numerously attended services in Great Britain, on March 30th, 1851, there were far more than double the proportionate number of persons present than were in attendance at similar services in London on the same day. These facts alone would lead to the conclusion that London has much less than half the proportionate amount of religious provision and of professors than the kingdom at large possesses.