

something wanting. You are dissatisfied. You get no good from his sermons. Dear reader, let brethren of the Laity put the question, "Are you sure the fault lies with your Pastor?" Why is it you are not benefited by his preaching? His sermons are heart-searching, his doctrine is pure, his appeals to your conscience pointed, it may be; but yet they fall unheeded on your ears. Is it indeed so? and may not then the fault lie nearer home? Do you enter the House of the most High in a proper frame of mind? Have you composed your thoughts and endeavoured to withdraw them from the cares of the world? Did you enter your closet and pray for God's blessing on what you might hear? Did you remember your Pastor before the Throne of Grace? Prayer is mighty, "the earnest prayer of a righteous man availeth much;" and well will it be for us when from the closets of every family earnest prayer for the prosperity of our Church, for our pastors and people individually and collectively, and for the brethren of the faith, is constantly offered up. We would gladly see a more elevated sense of duty prevail among the hearers of the Word, they being animated with a large portion of their Master's spirit, who went about continually doing good, and being pervaded by a feeling of responsibility for their own and their pastor's well-doing, and impressed with the belief that an earnest people are rarely without an earnest ministry. Should some reader be led to ponder on the subject-matter of these remarks, and perhaps to practise the duties inculcated, something will have been effected; and we send this sheet to wend its way on its errand, hoping for a blessing on its flight.

THE CHURCH IN CANADA.

MINISTERS' WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND.

CONGREGATIONAL COLLECTION.

Williamstown, Glengarry; per Rev. J. McKenzie
£5. A. SIMPSON, Treasurer.

Montreal, 29th August, 1853.

LATE ALEXANDER McMARTIN, ESQ.

It is with feelings of no ordinary regret that we record the death of Alexander McMartin, Esq., who departed this life very suddenly at his residence in Martintown, Glengarry, on the 15th July in the 62nd year of his age.

The lamented deceased has been favourably known in various relations for many years in this extensive Province.

He represented his native county (Glengarry) in Parliament for the almost unprecedented period of 22 years.

With much credit to himself, satisfaction to the Public, and benefit to many a poor man, he held the honourable office of High Sheriff of the Eastern District for many a year.

He was Lieut. Col. of the 3rd Battalion of the Glengarry militia, Postmaster of

Martintown for upwards of 30 years, President of the Bible Society, one of the Commissioners of the Clergy Reserve Fund, and the representative for years as Ruling Elder in Synod of the congregation of Martintown in connection with the Church of his Fathers. In the expressive language of a local paper, while announcing, at the same time regretting the melancholy event,

"An immense concourse of the inhabitants of the United Counties of all ranks attended the funeral solemnities (which were conducted in a most impressive manner by the Rev. Mr. McLaurin,) on Sabbath last, thus testifying their respect for a gentleman who was alike the friend of all, and whose urbanity and warmth of heart endeared him to his fellow-men of all creeds and political opinions, and who would long regret the loss of a man, whose place in society it will be difficult to fill."

He was a man of sound judgement; warm heart, and generous feelings; so that as husband, father, friend or neighbour, the deceased will be long remembered, and his demise deeply regretted.

"What man is he that liveth and shall not see death?"

Arise ye, depart, for this is not your rest.

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE SYNOD, &c., JULY, 1853.

(Continued from page 115)

Minute in Dr. Skinner's case, Friday, July 15th, after hearing the Report of the Examining Committee.

"The Synod, having heard this Report, agreed to receive and approve the same, and instructed the Presbytery of Hamilton to proceed in Dr. Skinner's case according to the laws of the Church, authorizing them, in the event of his receiving a call, to proceed to his settlement at the expiry of the prescribed period of probation without again reporting to the Synod, or even within that period, should the circumstances of the case appear to them, in the exercise of a wise discretion, to warrant that step; and in the meantime to employ him as a Missionary in such congregation or congregations as may appear to the Presbytery to be desirable and necessary."

Diet IV., Saturday, July 16th, 1853.—Devotional exercises were led by Rev. Wm. Johnson. Drs. Cook and Mathieson reported at length the efforts which they had made in Scotland towards procuring an additional number of preachers;—and Dr. Cook stated the steps which had been taken with the view of obtaining an additional number of Professors for Queen's College. The thanks of the Synod were given to them by the Moderator.

The Synod appointed the Rev. Robert Burnett, an ordained Missionary from the Colonial Committee of the General Assembly, to labour within the bounds and under the direction of the Presbytery of Hamilton.

Report of the Committee for obtaining and assisting in educating Students for the Ministry was given in and read by Mr. McGill. The Synod re-appointed the Committee with instructions to follow up the work, already begun, in such way as they may think best to secure success; and Ministers, Elders, and Congregations are enjoined to co-operate more zealously and cordially with the Committee in furthering the very important object in view.

An overture from the Presbytery of Hamilton in regard to the Status of Retired Ministers was discussed and referred to a Committee.

Diet V., Monday, July 18th, 1853.—Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. F. P. Sim.

The Act appointing Licentiate for the

Pastoral work was suspended for another year; and Presbyteries directed to proceed forthwith in hearing the trial pieces of those Students of Divinity in regard to whom permission has been already given by the Synod.

Drafts of Addresses to Her Majesty and the Governor General were considered and adopted, and ordered to be engrossed for the Moderator's signature.

The Synod appointed a Committee to attend to the interests of this Church in regard to the Clergy Reserves, and take whatever steps may appear to them to be necessary towards the protection of the same, and in particular to watch over the progress of legislation thereat, to call the attention of Presbyteries and Congregations to what may be the proper course of action as indicated by circumstances; and, if necessary, to take steps to be heard at the Bar of the Houses of Parliament, viz. Dr. Cook, Dr. Mathieson, Mr. McGill, Mr. Urquhart, Ministers, Mr. John Thomson, Mr. Alexander Morris, and Mr. Thomas A. Gibson, Elders; and the Hon. Wm. Morris, and Hugh Allan, Esq., were requested to act as members of this Committee.

Report of the Committee on the Status of Retired Ministers was given in. A deliverance was agreed to as an Interim Act, and sent down for the opinions of Presbyteries, to the effect that, agreeably to the views of this Church respecting the permanency of the Pastoral relation, when a minister becomes unfit, through age or infirmity, for the discharge of his Pastoral duties, the case shall be referred to the Presbytery of the bounds for examination and judgement, and, if it shall appear that the facts are as stated, the Presbytery shall meet with the congregation, and declare its duty to make such provision as may be within its power for the maintenance of their Minister, until God shall be pleased to restore his health, or remove him to the inheritance of a better life. But in the meanwhile his name shall remain on the Roll of the Presbytery as the Pastor of that Church, and as such he shall retain authority to perform all the ministerial duties for which he is competent, yet so as not to interfere with the rights and duties of the Pastor that may be ordained to fill his place, and in all the Church Courts, except the Session, of which he shall cease to be the Moderator, he shall retain full liberty to counsel and advise, though not to vote, on all matters that shall come up before them.

Reports of the Committees to examine the Synod Records and the Records of the several Presbyteries were given in; and the said Records were ordered to be attested.

Diet VI., Tuesday, July 19th, 1853.—The Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. Thomas Scott.

The Addresses to the Queen and to the Governor General, having been engrossed, were signed by the Moderator in name, in presence, and by appointment of the Synod.

The Form of Procedure in the calling and settling of Ministers, a lengthy paper already several times under the consideration of the Synod, was adopted as an interim Act, and transmitted to Presbyteries for their opinion thereon.

The Synod, having had their attention called to the subject of Sabbath Observance, agreed to express their regret of the failure in Parliament of the measure for relieving the servants of the public from Sabbath labour, agree to declare anew their determination to use every effort to promote the better observance of the Sabbath, and renew their injunction to Ministers to urge the observance of the Fourth Commandment on their people; and, further, the Synod recommend the Congregations under their care anew to petition Parliament for the abolition of all Sabbath desecration in the various departments of the Government.

Presbyteries were again enjoined, in terms of the minute of last year, without delay to take such steps for securing the public property of the Church within their bounds as may be considered necessary.