

The Presbyterian;

A MISSIONARY AND RELIGIOUS RECORD



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

CONDUCTED BY A COMMITTEE OF THE LAY ASSOCIATION.

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CHURCH IN CANADA.

MEETING OF SYNOD.

We beg to intimate to the Readers of the *Presbyterian* in Montreal and its vicinity that the Synod of Canada commence their Sittings with a Discourse by the Moderator or a Substitute in St. Andrew's Church at 7 P.M. of Wednesday, July 2nd.

THE LATE REV. DANIEL WILKIE, LL.D.

On Saturday, the 10th of May, the Rev. Daniel Wilkie, LL.D., departed this life. And yesterday his mortal remains were borne to the tomb. The funeral was something out of the ordinary run of funerals. There were present with others, to pay a last tribute of respect to departed worth, judges of the land, who had been his pupils. Mr. Justice Duval, the Hon. Henry Black, and Geo. Okill Stuart, Esq., late Mayor of the city, accompanied to the grave all that was mortal of a former teacher. The Rev. Dr. Cook, the Minister, (accompanied by the Rev. Dr. Mathieson, of Montreal), and the Elders of St. Andrew's Church, followed the hearse in a body, wearing crapes and weepers; and a vast concourse of the most respectable people of the city came after them.

At the grave the Reverend Dr. Cook pronounced an oration over the body, in which with singular ability and excellent taste he graphically illustrated equally the good qualities and the peculiarities of the deceased. Indeed in that eloquent address so well have these qualities and peculiarities been pointed out, and so minutely too is the gradual decline of the deceased described, that it is only necessary for us to say that death in Dr. Wilkie was pro-

duced by suffusion of the brain, and that after two years of wasting and unconsciousness he died at the advanced age of 75, regretted and respected by all who had ever known him — before drawing the reader's attention to the Address itself:

In the Providence of God we have been called together this day to commit the ashes of an old and much valued friend to the dust: an office of brotherhood with which we are but too familiar, and which we must expect to continue to perform till we are ourselves summoned away from this mortal life, and others have to discharge the same duty to us. It is not, however, with common feelings that we now discharge this common duty. Ordinarily death comes among us suddenly, sternly. By a few days or weeks of suffering his work is accomplished; and, when we meet to lay the body, which has been despoiled of its immortal inhabitant, in the grave, it is with the painful feeling of a recent and mournful separation.

But so it is not in the present instance. In the case of the venerable individual, around whose mortal remains we now stand, the separation had long been accomplished: separation from the world and its interests: separation from society and its duties: separation from communion with even the nearest and dearest of his friends, almost as complete as that which has now taken place. He had dropped out of his usual place in society. He had ceased to appear in circles, where for so long a period his face and figure were familiar. He had already, while life was still lingering on in its last stages, begun to pass away from the common remembrance. The place, that had once known him, was beginning to know him no more. And the announcement of his actual departure, and the mournful solemnities, in which we are now engaged, serve less to excite any painful feeling of separation than to recal vividly to the mind the image and memory of one, who had already been long removed from us.

I wish I could set before you, in a few plain words, what is thus recalled to the minds of all: giving expression to the common opinion and the common feeling. But it is little necessary. You have before you, more vividly than I could represent them, the form and figure of the old philosopher, moving slowly, and sometimes incongruously enough, in the midst of our busy community,

obviously abstracted from the common interests; little occupied with common objects of desire and ambition; and dwelling in a world of his own, a world of speculation, a world of theories, and fancies, and doubts, but into which none of the mean, or sordid, or selfish passions of the actual world ever found their way. You know, as well as I can describe them, the guileless simplicity of his nature, his inflexible integrity, his perfect frankness and sincerity, his genuine benevolence, his unaffected courtesy.

There will, I trust, be borne other and more valuable and more permanent testimony than any that could come from me, borne to the important services which for the long period of forty years he rendered to this city as a Teacher of youth; the indefatigable earnestness and the successful results of his labours in that toilsome, and ill requited, but most honourable profession; and his persevering and zealous efforts to keep up a high standard of education in a community but too much inclined to limit education to the more immediate wants of commercial business. From first to last, without aid or countenance from the Provincial authorities, nay, and while these were sometimes actively opposed to him, he maintained in this latter respect his steady and unyielding course, and so conferred a benefit on the community, great in itself, and to which no other person of the same profession can assert anything like an equal claim.

It will be for others also to bear witness to his zeal and efficiency in supporting every Literary and Educational Institution: every means by which the intellectual improvement of the community could be promoted. He was, indeed, and showed it, when required, by sacrifices and personal exertion, such as few are inclined to make, of a large, a public, a patriotic, and a philanthropic spirit. And, in regard of the highest of all subjects, in regard of Religion, whose office it is to bind men to God and to one another, while from the turn of his mind, and the circumstances of his education, he was prone to indulge in speculations, and perhaps reached conclusions with which we might be little inclined to agree, yet were both his daily conduct and his devotional temper in accordance with the faith which he had been early taught, and the simple worship on which he regularly waited; and I feel it is a good and holy wish I utter for myself and you, when I desire that we all may have and cherish such profound reverence and love for the Lord Jesus