

have been his knowledge of the affairs of this country. It is not, perhaps, too much to say that long before he set foot on Canadian soil he knew more of the state of religion in all our Provinces, than did any one minister, or laymen who had resided in the country, for many years; and that to no one else are these provinces more indebted than to him, for the large number of ministers who came to them, from the Church of Scotland, between the years 1825 and 1840.

In the year 1844 Dr. Burns came to Canada and the United States, as a Deputy of the Free Church of Scotland, and, along with the late Principal Cunningham, gave to large audiences in many places a full exposition of the causes which led to the Disruption in Scotland in the previous year, and the position and prospects of the Free Church. On this occasion he met with a goodly number of the ministers sent out by the Glasgow Society, and also missed seeing not a few who had returned to Scotland, to occupy the pulpits and parishes left vacant by the Free Church Exodus. In 1845 he accepted a call to the pastoral charge of Knox Church, Toronto. In this city the first Presbyterian Church had been organized in 1810, by the Rev. John Beattie of the Dutch Reformed Church of the United States, which was the first Presbyterian Church to make systematic efforts to establish Presbyterianism in Upper Canada. The next Presbyterian congregation in Toronto was organized by the Rev. James Harris, who came from the Secession Church in Ireland. When Dr. Burns came to Toronto Mr. Harris retired from the active duties of the ministry; and his congregation united with adherents of the Free Church, who seceded from St. Andrew's, in forming Knox Church, to the pastoral charge of which Dr.

Burns was inducted on the 23rd May 1845. In Toronto, as in Paisley, his pastoral labours were most abundant; but his labours were not confined to Toronto, or to Upper Canada. Throughout all the Provinces as far as the Atlantic coast he made missionary tours, preaching the Gospel, and, in the Scriptural sense, confirming the churches. In all parts of the Dominion, the memory of his visits is gratefully retained, and one can scarcely name a locality, where there are not traces of his indefatigable evangelistic labours.

In the earlier years of his ministry in Knox Church, he added to his pastoral work the duties of Professor of Theology, until a permanent professor was appointed in the person of the late Principal Willis. With the establishment and prosperity of this institution he had much to do. So far back as 1829 he had suggested, in the report of the Glasgow Society, the necessity of such an institution; and when the Disruption took place in Canada in 1844, he among other things, took a very active part in providing for Knox College an excellent library. Many of its most valuable books were collected by him from friends in Scotland, or contributed from his own private library. In this connection it may be mentioned that there is an exceedingly interesting legend of the peregrinations of the splendid edition of the Paris Polyglot Bible, which now rests in the tower recess of Knox College Library. The legend, written by Dr. Burns himself, will be found in the July number of the *Missionary Record* of 1853. The Paris Polyglot was presented by Dr. Black of the Free Church College, Edinburgh.

In the year 1856 Dr. Burns was translated from Knox Church to Knox College as Professor of Apologetics and Church History; and the position of active, or Emeritus Professor of