

Dr. John Mitchell, highly accomplished as a scholar, and the Rev. Dr. John Dick, still very eminent both in Britain and America, by his published theological lectures. These two excellent men had then charge of the Theological Hall of the Associate Secession Synod. It may be mentioned here that during the recesses of College and the Theological Hall, Mr. Skinner taught a select school in Dundee, employing a substitute when absent at his studies; and was much esteemed by his pupils and their parents. Throughout his whole course of study, he showed himself the true "earnest student," and was marked by that unremitting attention to every duty which characterized him all his subsequent life. He was licensed to preach the glorious Gospel of the grace of God in the summer of 1832.

It is proper to state here that while pursuing his studies, he had expressly devoted himself to Foreign Missionary work. But when licensed to preach, wishing to have some practical experience in the work before going abroad, he took appointments for more than a year. His services were very acceptable, his manners winning, and he might have been settled in his native land, had he chosen. But he firmly adhered to his original purpose, and made no secret of it. He was in heart a thorough Missionary, as he afterwards showed. Having been cordially accepted by the Mission Committee of the United Associate Synod, and designated to go to Canada, he was ordained for that enterprise by the Presbytery of Forfar, on the 31st of March, 1834, after giving very satisfactory evidence of his fitness for the arduous work.

Mr. Skinner and his young wife whom he had married a few days before, and who ever proved a true helpmeet to a missionary, sailed from Dundee on the 4th of April 1834. They were accompanied to the ship by a large number of Christian friends, and by his former pupils in a body,—all sorrowing, yet rejoicing,—sorrowing that they should see his face no more—but rejoicing that he was leaving them on such an honourable undertaking. In the same year though not at the same time, the Rev. John Cassie came out to the Canadian Mission. He was located at Port Hope on Lake Ontario, and faithfully laboured in that part of the field till he died in 1861, very suddenly. The Synod's Mission was inaugurated in 1832, when the Rev. Thomas Christie, the Rev. Wm. Proudfoot, and the Rev. Mr. Robertson, ordained ministers, were sent forth. Mr. Robertson died of cholera, in Montreal, a month after his arrival. Mr. Proudfoot was led in Providence to the London district, where he was in labours abundant, and died in 1851. Mr. Christie took up his position at Flamboro and Dundas, near Hamilton, where he still survives, and labours in the work of the Lord Jesus. The Rev. Mr. Taylor (now D.D.) the Rev. George Murray, and the Rev. Robert H. Thornton (now D.D.) followed in 1833, and proved themselves workmen not needing to be ashamed. They are yet spared to labour in the ministry. The Rev. James Roy, deceased a good many years ago, and the Rev. Mr. Barrie, who has had the townships of Eramosa, Nichol &c for his zealous and successful cultivation, and is yet ministering in Eramosa,—came after Mr. Skinner; and a few others subsequently. This sketch of that Mission to Canada West may not be out of place here, when it has been merged in a much larger Mission, embracing the length and breadth of Canada, indeed now extending to British Columbia, Red River, and the Indians in the far west, with a commencement in the Islands of the South Seas. May the Lord prosper all those important works;

Mr. Skinner and his life partner, under Divine care had a safe voyage, and landed at Montreal in May 1834. Upper Canada having been the Mission ground first fixed upon, and all the previous Missionaries having proceeded thither,—except Mr. Taylor, who was called and settled in Montreal,—Mr. Skinner too directed his steps westward, and soon pitched his mission tent in the township of Southwold, on Lake Erie. He set himself to labour vigorously around him, and chose three places for his Sabbath ministrations, besides week day work from house to house in the woods. But he did not rest satis-