

THE REV. DR. MCGILL.—Under the head of our ordinary obituary notices we announced a few days ago the decease of this faithful and laborious Minister and most excellent and pious man as having taken place on the 4th instant. This melancholy event has shed a gloom over the community, who were little prepared, from the previous report of the nature of his illness, to learn that so speedy a termination had taken place in his career of usefulness and activity. The feeling will be shared in other parts of the Province where he was as well known and as highly appreciated as in this city—the scene in latter years of his effective ministrations. Upon Dr. McGill's numerous private friends and attached congregation the blow has fallen with great heaviness. They fondly hoped, up to Saturday last, that the disease, though of so harassing and disturbing a character as to prevent him from discharging for a time his sacred functions, would shortly yield to medical treatment, and that ere the return of milder weather they would see him once more in his accustomed place. "His Master," however, whose hand the lamented deceased himself always recognised in every dispensation, saw fit to order it otherwise. Towards Sunday morning the disease acquired greater strength, ending at last in congestion of the brain. The sufferer lingered till Monday afternoon, when without a sigh he resigned his spirit into the hands of his Maker.

Robert McGill was born at Ayr in 1796. Under his father's care, who was long known as a judicious teacher of youth, he made rapid progress in his elementary studies, and at a fitting age he was sent to the University of Glasgow, where he distinguished himself so much as to secure the most favourable opinion of his professors, with some of whom in after years he maintained an affectionate and cordial correspondence. At an early period his mind was deeply imbued with the sacred truths of Religion; and, resolving to devote himself to the work of preaching the Gospel, he sought for and readily obtained the sanction of his parents that he might direct his studies towards an adequate preparation for that important calling. In due time Mr. McGill was licensed by the Presbytery of Glasgow as a preacher; he officiated for some time in various parts of his native country with much satisfaction to the people until in 1829 he received and accepted a call from the congregation at Niagara in Upper Canada. For many years he laboured in that town with singular zeal and success, and his name is even now always mentioned there with the greatest esteem and respect. In 1845, shortly after the death of the lamented Dr. Black of St. Paul's Church in this city, Mr. McGill received a unanimous call to supply the vacancy, which he accepted, though with reluctance, owing to the strong attachment which had grown up between his people and himself. In the year 1853 the University of Glasgow conferred upon Mr. McGill the Degree of Doctor in Divinity, as an acknowledgement of the estimation in which they held his learning and his long continued services in the cause of Religion.

In his pulpit appearances the late Dr. McGill was mainly distinguished by the earnestness and fervour with which he brought before his hearers the leading truths of Religion. When occasion served, he did not neglect to draw upon the ample stores of his well informed mind, in order to illustrate the subjects under notice. These, however,

were subordinated to the main purpose and business of his life—the bringing of sinners to a knowledge of and love for the Redeemer, and urging upon their minds the paramount importance of making their peace with God while it was yet time. In some of his discourses Dr. McGill rose to a height of great eloquence and power, as many will acknowledge, who were privileged to hear him on occasions of public interest and importance. Several of his productions have from time to time appeared in print, and more recently he published a volume of discourses characterised by much vigour of thought and elegance of expression. These cannot fail to be highly prized by his sorrowing friends, both on account of their intrinsic worth and as fitting and valuable memorials of the departed.

In the Church Courts Dr. McGill on many occasions took a prominent part in the deliberations, where the acuteness of his reasoning powers and his ready extemporaneous addresses secured the greatest attention and respect. If in the heat of debate, as will sometimes happen at public meetings, a feeling of irritation or impatience with a brother member arose, he hastened with kindly alacrity to restore peace and harmony.

At the last session of the Synod of his Church Dr. McGill was deputed, along with a colleague, to visit the neighbouring Province of New Brunswick for the purpose of fostering feelings of friendship and sympathy between the Churches. He accepted the mission with his accustomed eagerness to render himself useful, and discharged his duties with fidelity and zeal, taking part in the deliberations of the Synod of New Brunswick, and preaching frequently in various places. This mission, which lasted over six weeks, was among the last of his more important public duties.

To the affairs of the Benevolent and Literary Institutions of the City Dr. McGill devoted much of his time and attention, and on all fitting occasions he did not fail to urge their claims to countenance and support with all the persuasive eloquence with which he was so liberally endowed.

While sincerely attached to the Church of his fathers, Dr. McGill maintained a friendly intercourse with all his brethren of the Protestant family, by many of whom his death is as deeply deplored as by his own people.

Dr. McGill's memory will be long cherished with affection by the congregation among whom he laboured. Nothing could exceed the interest which he evinced for their welfare, spiritual and temporal. At periods of sickness in particular he grudged neither time nor labour in ministering to them, and few who have listened to him on such occasions will forget the earnest supplications which he offered up at the Throne of Grace, the clearness with which he pointed out the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and the fervour with which he dwelt on the all-sufficient merits of the Blessed Redeemer. His kindly and soothing manner made him a welcome visitor to many a humble sufferer, and the recollection of the sweet intercourse then had has frequently left a deep and permanent impression for good. In all the domestic relations Dr. McGill was as exemplary as in those of a public character.

A widow and three children have been left to mourn his departure. They have, we feel assured, the heart-felt sympathy of the whole community in this time of their trial and bereavement.—*Montreal Gazette.*

PRESBYTERY OF MONTREAL.

At Montreal, and within St. Andrew's Church there, on the 6th day of February, 1854 the which day the Presbytery of Montreal, in connection with the Church of Scotland, met and was constituted with prayer. Sederunt Alex. Wallace, Mod., P. T., Alex. Mathieson, D.D., James Anderson, James C. Muir, William Simpson, James T. Paul, Thomas Haig, John McDonald, Frederick P. Sim, Ministers; Hew Ramsay and Alexander Morris, Esqs., Ruling Elders. Inter Alia.

Mr. Ramsay, Ruling Elder of St. Paul's Church, Montreal, intimated to the Presbytery that the Rev. Dr. McGill, D.D., Minister of St. Paul's Church, departed this life on the 4th instant. Whereupon it was moved by Mr. Simpson, and seconded by Mr. Morris, that a committee of Presbytery be appointed to draw up a minute expressive of the sympathy of this Presbytery with the bereaved family and destitute congregation of their late brother. Dr. Mathieson, Messrs. Sim, Ramsay, and Morris were named as a Committee by the Moderator. The said minute was requested to be laid on the table of Presbytery at a meeting to be held on Friday, the 8th. inst., at 1 o'clock, and before the funeral of Dr. McGill.

ALEX. WALLACE,
Moderator.

THOMAS HAIG,
Presby. Clerk.

At Montreal, and within St. Andrew's Church, the 8th of February, 1856, the Presbytery of Montreal met and was constituted with prayer. Sederunt William Simpson, Mod., P. T., Messrs. Haig and Sim, Ministers, Ramsay & Morris, Elders. The funeral of Dr. McGill, which was appointed to take place this day, was postponed till to-morrow, owing to the non-arrival of friends from Canada West, whereupon it was moved and seconded that the Presbytery adjourn till to-morrow at 1 o'clock. Agreed to. Closed with prayer.

WM. SIMPSON,
Mod., P. T.

THOMAS HAIG,
Pres. Clerk.

At Montreal, and within St. Andrew's Church there, on Saturday, the 9th of February, at 1 o'clock, P.M., the Presbytery of Montreal met before the funeral of their late brother, the Rev. Robert McGill, D.D., Minister of St. Paul's Church in this city, and was constituted. Sederunt Rev. Wm. Simpson, Mod., P. T., Alex. Mathieson, D.D., Thomas Haig, Ministers; Messrs. Ramsay and Morris, Ruling Elders. The committee, appointed at the regular meeting on Wednesday last to draw up a minute expressive of the sympathy of this Presbytery with the bereaved family and destitute congregation, laid the following upon the table, which, being read by the Clerk, was ordered to be inscribed as part of the regular minutes of Presbytery, and is as follows.