

OCTOBER, 1876.

REV. WILLIAM TAYLOR, D. D.,
MONTREAL.

Before these lines are read, intelligence of the death this eminent Canadian divine will have reached the remotest parts of the Dominion. But this, does not prevent us from paying our humble tribute to the memory of one who, by the virtues of his private life no less than by his public ministrations, has been identified with the propagation of Christian faith and morals in this land of his adoption, for nearly half a century. Dr. Taylor died at Portland, in the state of Maine, on the fourth of September in the seventy-third year of his age. Few men, at his time of life, are so active in mind and body as was our departed friend two weeks before his death. A calm and dignified demeanour made him a man of mark in whatever company he was found. Endowed by nature with a noble presence, he was the picture of contentment and health; yet, he carried about with him, for many years, the seeds of that disease which eventually, and somewhat suddenly, terminated his earthly career. In the absence of his colleague, Dr. Taylor had for a number of weeks, during the heat of summer, discharged the duties pertaining to the pastorate of Erskine Church, with no apparent diminution of his former power and efficiency. He subsequently repaired to the sea-side for a season of rest. Little could he have dreamed that he was going away from friends and relatives to die among strangers. But, knowing what manner of man he was, and the foundation on which rested all his hopes for time and eternity, and how habitual had become to him the life of Faith in the Son of God, the time and place of his departure, as well as the attendant circumstances, were doubtless of small account. While life lasted he

rejoiced to live and work for his fellow-men, and, when the end came, he was ready to depart, "and to be with Christ; which is far better."

Dr. Taylor was a native of Scotland. He was licensed to preach the gospel in the year 1827, and was ordained to the ministry of the Secession Church at Peebles, in 1831. On the third of June 1833 he landed in Montreal, and on the 20th of the same month, the Erskine Church congregation was founded. On July 21st, Dr. Taylor, dispensed the Sacrament of the Lord's supper to one hundred and five communicants. The next day a called was presented to him, which he accepted. He commenced his duties as pastor on the 29th. So he ministered to this congregation for forty-three years.

It is needless to enlarge on the diligence and success of Dr. Taylor's ministry. The best testimony that can be adduced in this regard, is the large, influential, and admirably organized congregation that gathered round him and that now mourns the loss they have sustained by his death. Those who came within the circle of intimate acquaintanceship with him best know his true worth and they will ever esteem it a privilege to have known one so gentle and unassuming, so genial, and so well-informed, so thoroughly independent, and, when occasion required, so fearless in the maintenance of truth and the denunciation of error.

The funeral obsequies were observed in Erskine Church, Montreal, on the 7th September with becoming solemnity. From the time of their arrival in this city till the hour appointed for the funeral the remains of the deceased minister were laid in front of the pulpit where his living voice had so often been heard. The Church was draped in black, and the coffin was profusely decorated with exquisite wreaths of immortelles. The edifice was filled with friends and ac-