

the Establishment in 1839. With all the ministers of his former connection he came out at the Disruption in 1843. In 1847 the Rev. Dr. Bayne, of Galt, was sent to Scotland to confer with the Colonial Committee of the Free Church regarding the appointment of a professor of divinity in Knox College, and the services of Dr. Willis, whose high qualifications were on all hands recognized, were happily secured. He entered upon his duties in the College at the commencement of the session 1847-8, and continued to discharge them till 1870, when, on the ground of years, he resigned his office and returned to Britain. After his retirement he lived mostly in London, but he made frequent visits to his native Scotland, as also excursions to the Continent of Europe—rendering valuable service to the cause of Christ in various evangelistic labors. He was also in the evening of his life, permitted to fulfil a long-cherished purpose of visiting Palestine. He last saw Canada in '71; for, by a graceful act, being appointed Moderator of the first General Assembly of our Church, he returned to our shores to open the Assembly held at Quebec in the year following his resignation. He died rather suddenly when on a visit to Scotland, in the end of 1879.

Dr. Willis was possessed of high talents and much force of character. His mind was remarkably vigorous, but it was also subtle and versatile as well, and he could express the finest distinctions with great facility and accuracy. He was an excellent scholar, and was, as we have seen, eminent for his knowledge of Greek. His classical attainments were kept up, and even extended, till his later years, of which we have proof in his "Collectanea," a book of Patristic extracts which he published for the use of his classes in Knox College.

As a theologian he tenaciously held the Calvinistic system in its integrity, and he defended its various doctrines with ability and zeal, though always with discrimination. His mind was polemical, though his views were far from narrow, and he did not fail in charity towards those who conscientiously differed from him. His speech in the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland in the case of a Mr. Scott, who had adopted certain Morisonian tenets, was pronounced by Dr. Cunningham one of the ablest theological arguments to which he had ever listened. It need scarcely be said that in his chair his teaching was in strict harmony with the stand-