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THE LATE REV. DR. MATHIESON.

We noticed in our last issue the death in this city of the Rev. Dr. Mathieson. This week we present our readers with the portrait of the late reverend gentleman and an account of his life and labours, for the facts of which we are indebted to Mr. Fennings Taylor's "British Americans."

Alexander Mathieson was born in 1795 in the village of Renton, County of Dumbarton. Here he received the first rudiments of education, and at the age of ten years removed to Campsie, where, at the parish school, he prepared for College. He matriculated at the age of fourteen, and six years after—when only twenty—took his A. M. degree. In the year 1823 he was licensed to preach the Gospel, and on the 19th of October, 1823, was ordained by the Presbytery of Dumbarton to St. Andrew's Church, Montreal. Four weeks after his ordination he sailed for Canada. He arrived in Montreal on the 24th of December, and was inducted on the following Sunday. Dr. Mathieson took an active part in asserting what he believed to be the right of the Church of Scotland, to an equal share with the Anglican Church of the Clergy Reserves. In 1837, Mr. Mathieson received his D. D. degree. He was in Glasgow at the time, and happening to be present at the installation of the Duke of Montrose as Chancellor, was surprised to hear his own name read out as one of those upon whom the honour of the degree had been conferred. In 1840, the year before the Union Act came into force, Dr. Mathieson returned to Canada, and shortly afterwards married Catherine, the daughter of Mr. John Mackenzie, of Montreal, but unhappily for him his wife died in 1856.

Dr. Mathieson was a member of the first Presbyterian Synod in 1831. He was chosen Moderator in 1832, and again in 1860, at the time of the visit of the Prince of Wales to Canada, when it devolved upon him, in virtue

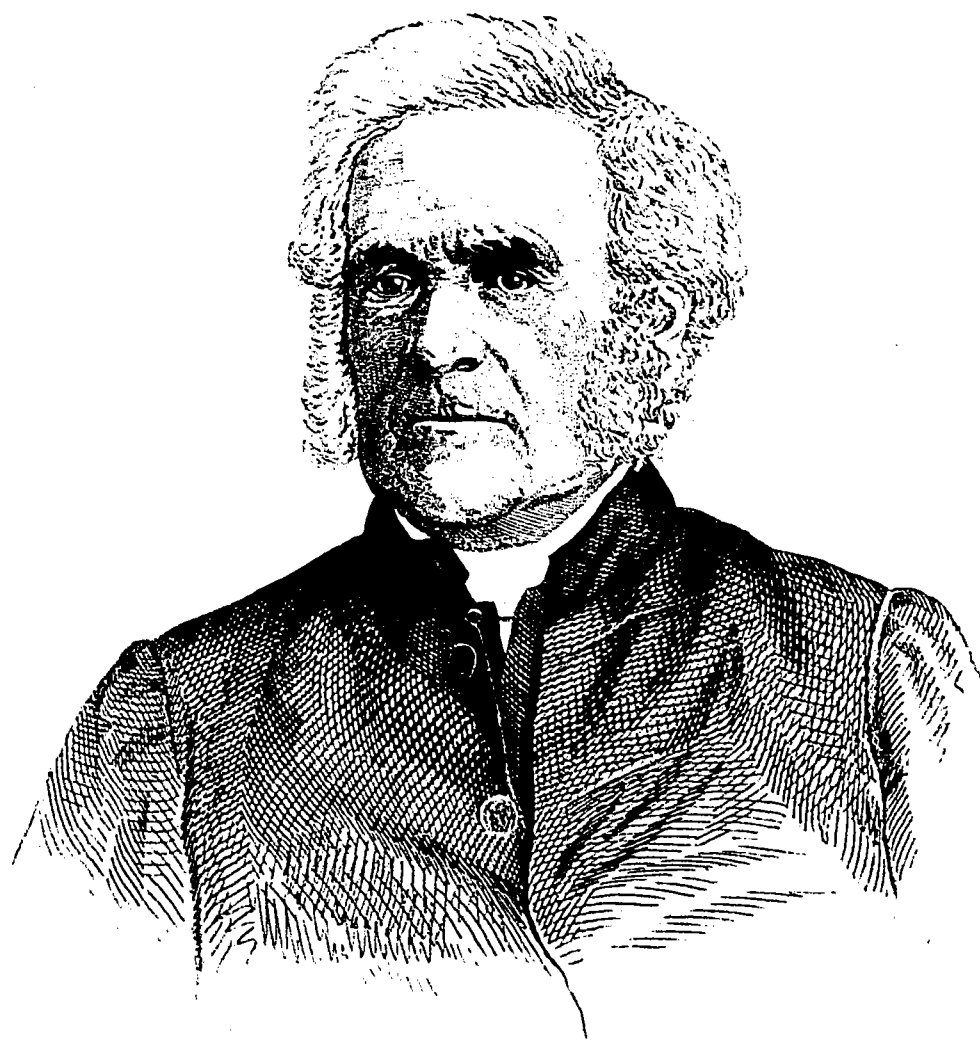
of his office, to read and present the congratulatory address of the Synod of the Scotch Church to His Royal Highness. A mistake occurred on this occasion which touched the Doctor in a very tender point. The arrangement of the authorities, by which the address of the Scotch Church was to be received in a less marked and imposing manner, seemed to him to place him in a very unfair and false position, and so he resolutely determined not to present the address. He would not slight his Church to win the smiles of his Prince; nor was it necessary. The Prince was highly amused at the uncourtly

exhibition, and we have little doubt as highly esteemed the conscientious man.

In the same year a movement was made in the Scottish body to re-unite all the seceding Presbyterian denomination. The union was to have been effected by some sort of a compromise, to which Dr. Mathieson refused to agree. He was unwilling to sacrifice his principles, and, as Moderator, he preached a sermon of great force and eloquence against the movement, which probably contributed not a little to its failure.

admiration of his Church. To his Church and his congregation he devoted himself entirely; for them he appeared to live, and to them he gave all his thoughts. Unfortunately he left nothing behind him but his sermons to testify of his brilliant talents and his cultivated tastes. In his discourses we find evidences of deep research and profound thought set off by beauty of expression and an energy that could only be the result of deep-seated conviction.

Dr. Mathieson was much respected by all with whom he came into contact, his affability and courtesy making him a general favourite. His congregation held him in the highest esteem, and looked up to him as to a father. To them his death will be an almost irreparable loss. By the poor he will be especially missed. He made them the especial object of his care, and interested himself particularly in assisting them in their troubles. In his connection with the St. Andrew's Society, he did much to alleviate their condition. His object was to diminish pauperism as much as possible by finding work for the poor, and in striving to obtain this end he was indefatigable. Dr. Mathieson's connection with the St. Andrew's Society dated from its foundation in 1835, when he was elected chaplain. During his connection with the Society, from 1835 to 1869, he was elected chaplain no less than twenty-five times. He entered heart and soul into the benevolent object of the association, and laboured untiringly for its attainment. He was always regular in his attendance at the meetings of the Charitable Committee and ever ready to assist them in their labour of love. For several years past the reverend gentleman had been in failing health, which interfered seriously with his labours, and of late symptoms of approaching dissolution appeared. At length he was taken away from the sphere of usefulness which he filled so well; he breathed his last on the morning of the 14th instant, after seventy-five years of an active and well-employed



THE LATE REV. ALEX. MATHIESON, D. D.

The two last-mentioned incidents give a great insight into the Doctor's character. He was remarkable especially for his innate and steadfast love of truth, which he considered worthy of any sacrifice or deprivation. He was a thoroughly warm-hearted and conscientious man, and though his teaching was characterized by great vigour and earnestness, it was neither forbidding in its tone nor morose in its tendency. Another prominent point in the Doctor's character was what phrenologists would call "veneration"—an intense reverence of the throne and its occupant, which was only equalled by his love and

life. His funeral took place on Thursday, the 17th inst., at St. Paul's Church, Montreal. The remains were afterwards consigned to a vault in the Protestant Cemetery.

Dr. Mathieson's first publication is an occasion worthy of note, and the circumstances which gave rise to his earliest appearance in print are probably still remembered by some of the older inhabitants of Montreal. Mr. Mathieson was sitting in the house of, and at the time conversing with his friend, Mr. Robert Watson, the flour inspector of Montreal, when the latter was fatally shot by an assassin through the window, and survived but a few hours. Under