

OME notice of the veteran ecclesiastic, Dr. Burns, of Knox College, Toronto, lately deceased, who has occupied a conspicuous position with reference to our church, both in Scotland and in Canada, is demanded at our hands. He died within the walls of Knox College, Toronto, on the 19th of August, having only returned from a long visit to Scotland just a fortnight before, in apparent health. We take the following *resumé* of the leading events in his stirring life, from the *Toronto Globe* of the 20th August:

"Dr. Burns was born at Borrowstoness, Scotland, on the 13th of February, 1789, and was consequently in his 81st year. His father was Collector of Customs at that port, and was a very excellent Christian gentleman. Four of Collector Burns' sons became ministers of the Church of Scotland. Though the other three never came to be so widely known as the subject of this sketch, yet they occupied very respectable positions, and laboured long and faithfully in the work of the ministry. The eldest died a good number of years ago, when minister of Brechin. One of his daughters married the celebrated Dr. Guthrie, of Edinburgh. The second son of Collector Burns was for upwards of sixty years the minister of Kilsyth. The well known W. C. Burns, Missionary to China, was one of his sons. The youngest of Collector Burns' four sons still survives, and is, as he has been for a very long period, minister of the Free Church Corstorphine, in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh.

"With his brothers, Dr. Burns, after receiving his preliminary training in his native town, went through a full course of literary, scientific, and theological education at the University of Edinburgh, and was in due course licensed in 1810 as a preacher in connection with the Church of Scotland. Very shortly afterwards he was appointed to what was then called the Laigh Kirk of Paisley, and what some time after came to be known as St. George's, and was there ordained in July, 1811. At the soiree held in Paisley some weeks ago, to do honour to Dr. Burns before his return to Canada, the Chairman, who had been a little boy at the time of the ordination, mentioned some interesting particulars connected with the Doctor's early ministry. The connection formed was a very pleasant one; and, with characteristic energy and zeal, the young minister entered upon the laborious and somewhat harassing task of a city pastorate,

and continued faithfully and successfully to discharge the varied duties of his first charge for the long period of thirty-four years.

"Along with Principal Cunningham, Dr. Burns visited America, in order to interest the churches on this side of the Atlantic in the struggles and triumphs of the Free Church. The visit to Canada contributed largely to the disruption of the Presbyterian Church of this Province, as well as of that in the Maritime Colonies, and also led to Dr. Burns being invited to become pastor of Knox's Church in this city. With that invitation he saw fit to comply. He accordingly removed to this Province in 1845, and has resided in Toronto ever since.

"From 1845 to 1856, Dr. Burns continued to labour in Toronto as pastor of Knox's Church, with encouraging success, though not without his full share of the troubles and cares connected with the pastoral office. At the latter date, he was called to be Professor of Church History and Apologetics in Knox's College; in which position he continued till the growing infirmities of age led him to retire from his onerous and responsible duties, though as Emeritus Professor he continued to take a considerable share in the work of the Institution, and was looking forward to the resumption of this work in the coming session, when removed by death."

We are indebted to the "Home and Foreign Record of the Canada Presbyterian Church," for the following account of his writings:

"While in Paisley, with all the duties of a large and important charge, he found time not only for writing pamphlets on many ecclesiastical and social questions of the day, but for composing volumes of intrinsic value, some of which passed through several editions. We might mention among his numerous productions "Dissertations on the Poor Laws;" a volume on the subject of "Pluralities;" "The Life of Dr. Stevenson Magill," besides pamphlets on Slavery, on Catholic Emancipation, the Apocrypha, the Rowe heresy, the Voluntary and Non-Intrusion Controversies, &c. He edited Woodrow's History of the Church of Scotland, adding notes and a life of the historian. A copy of this work he had the honour of presenting in person to King William IV. He was also for some years editor of the *Christian Instructor*, to whose pages he was a frequent contributor while it was under the charge of Dr. Andrew Thomson. He was for many years the