

REV. JOHN KIER, D.D.,

*Professor of Divinity to the Presbyterian Church in Nova Scotia.*

We have received the melancholy intelligence that the Rev. Dr. Kier died at Truro on the 22nd September. Scarcely ever has an event been announced that will be received throughout our Church with more general or deep felt sorrow than this. It was but last month that we recorded the interesting proceedings connected with the celebration of his Jubilee in the ministry. He then appeared in good health, and with the prospect of years of usefulness in the ministry. On the 1st September he attended the opening of the Seminary, and entered upon the duties of the present term of the Theological Hall. And now it is our duty to record the close of his earthly labours.

His last illness is thus briefly described by Professor Smith, "That day week before he died, he went to the Post Office to enquire for letters from home, when his thoughts went entirely from him, and he was utterly unable to make known to any body what he wanted. He fell into the hands of kind friends there, who conveyed him home in a carriage. Passing home from my class, at 5 o'clock, his landlady called me in to see him, and thinking the attack was but slight, I prescribed something for him as on former occasions. But Mr. McCulloch calling soon after I left, was more alarmed, and went immediately for a Doctor. After that, every thing was done for him that human skill could devise. But in spite of every effort to subdue the raging fever that had set in, he sank under its wasting effects in the short space of one week. His work was done. Our Great Master had given the commission, and no power could reverse his decision. We bow with humble resignation to his holy will."

We cannot profess to give at this time any thing like a full account of Dr. Kier's life and labours. We may, however, mention briefly that he was a native of Buckleyvie in the parish of Kippen—that he was educated at Glasgow College, studied Theology under Professor Bruce of Whitburn, that he was licensed by the Associate, or Antiburgher, Presbytery of Glasgow about the beginning of the year 1808—that he shortly after devoted himself to the mission in Nova Scotia, and arrived in this country in the fall of that year. He spent that winter on Prince Edward Island, and in the following spring returned for a short time to Nova Scotia. Being called that summer he returned to the Island in the fall, and has continued to labour there ever since, though he was not ordained till the following June. In the year 1844, on the death of Dr. McCulloch, he was elected Professor of Theology to the Synod, which office he has continued to fill with honor to himself and advantage to the Church, till he has now been suddenly cut down at his post. He was in his 79th year.—*Christian Instructor, Halifax.*

REV. JOHN BROWN, D. D.,

*Professor of Exegetical Theology to the United Presbyterian Church in Scotland.*

It is with extreme sorrow that we announce the demise of this most excellent man, and distinguished servant of Jesus Christ. Dr. Brown died at his residence in Edinburgh, on Wednesday, 13th October, in, we believe, the 75th year of his age and 53rd of his ministry. He had labored under a lengthened and very painful illness, but its intensity had for some time abated, and hopes were entertained that he was rallying. A few days before his decease, it became evident that the closing scene was at hand. He departed without the slightest struggle, and apparently in perfect peace, retaining full possession of his faculties till the end. His loss will be very widely and severely felt. May the Great Head of the Church be graciously pleased to fill the place that has been left vacant! We hope ere long to have the opportunity of laying before our readers some notices respecting him, which will doubtless be furnished by persons competent to the task. Meanwhile we are forcibly reminded of the words of Robert Hall:—"Heaven is attracting to itself whatever is congenial to its nature, is enriching itself with the spoils of earth, and collecting within its capacious bosom whatever is pure, permanent, and divine; leaving nothing for the last fire to consume but the objects and the slaves of concupiscence."—During the last thirty-six years, the period we were honored with his acquaintance, he uniformly treated us with parental kindness. We had not one better friend on earth to lose.