Memorial Sketch of the Late Rev. Alexauder McLean. M.A., of Strabane

The Rev. Alexander McLean, though of Scotch descent, was as madien by birth; his birth place being about three miles from the town of Brookville. He was born in the year of our Lord 1814, hence he was in his sixty-taird year when he died.

Of his early life little is known to the writer of this sketch, except that he was blossed with the influences of a godly home and regular attendance on a Presbyterian ministry, which in all probability, led to that entire conscoration to God which characterized his whole life. The eighteenth year of his age proved the crisis of his history. He was then arrosted by the Holy Spirit; and brought to know himself as a sinner, "exposed to wrath, even asothers." He remained under great aniritial dark.

tory. He was then arrested by the Holy Spirit, and brought to know himself as a sinner, "exposed to wrath, even asothers." He remained under great spiritual darkness, with much mental depression and anguish, for some time. At length God came "over the mountain of his transgresslons," and he was enabled to realize the power of Christ to save. From that time forward he resolved to dedicate himself to God's service, and commenced at once to prepare for the "Christian ministry." After receiving his preparatory education in the Auburn academy, State of New York, he went to the land of his fathers, and entered the University of Edinburgh, where he graduated in divinity. While in the University he had the advantage of studying under Dr. Chalmers, who was one of his theological professors. After Mr. McLean had finished his studies at the Edinburgh University, he returned to Canada, and was tak n on trials, and licensed to preach the Gospel by the Presbytery of Kingston. He was also ordained by the same Presbytery on the 14th day of February 1844. This was the very year the disruption agitation was rife, and when the late "Free Church" took its rise in our country. Mr. McLean joined himself to the seceding party, and took a lively and active interest in all its movements, and became very successful in establishing free churches in those localities that were destitute of gospel ordinances. He thus became one of the most earnest and indefatigable ministers of the church to which he had the honour to belong. His first settlement was at Picton, in the county of Prince Edward, where he laboured for the space of two years, which charge he was obliged to relinquish, on account of ill health. After spending six months in the Southern States, in quest of health, he came, much recuperated, as an ordained missionary to the Presbytery of Hamilton. His first recorded labours in this Presbytery were in connection with the congregations of Watrecuperated, as an ordained missionary to the Presbytery of Hamilton. His first recorded labours in this Presbytery were in connection with the congregations of Waterdown and Wellington Square. We find by referring to the Session Records of these congregations, that he was appointed, along with Dr. Ferrier of Caledonia, "to hold meetings of session, receive members, and administer the ordinance of the Lord's Supper in Wellington Square on the last Sabbath of March, 1847." The first services he conducted in the church at Wellington Square, therefore, were the services lington Square, therefore, were the services preparatory to the communion referred to above, and these were held on Friday, March 26th, 1847. He continued to labour as an ordained missionary here for the space of three months, when he was regularly inducted as pastor over the congrega-

tions.

In addition to the work of the congregations at Waterdown and Wellington Square, Mr. McLean soon began to extend his borders to Cumminsville. Having the true missionary spirit he was ever anxious to carry the gospel to the regions beyond. After visiting and preaching in Comminsville occasionally, he soon established a congregation and gave them required. Comminsville occasionally, he soon established a congregation and gave them regular monthly supply. In this widely scattered field he continued to labour until May 1855, when on petition of the Cumminsville congregation, and by authority of the Presbytery, he was translated to the pastoral oversight of the associate congregations of Cumminsville and Naira which pastoral oversight of the associate congregations of Cumminsville and Nairn, which were then creeted into one pastoral charge. Mr. McLean laboured in these congregations until 1862, when he resigned the Cumminsville part, and devoted the whole of his energies to Nairn, where he remained labouring until he was called away to his raward. his reward.

This congregation has always been pros-perous under his labours, now it numbers a large membership; and the attendance on the public services is so numerous that the old church has become too strait for the people, and they have resolved like Ne-hemiah, " to arise and build."

The conversion of Mr. McLean, like all conversions to Christianity, though not miraculous, was supernatural, and the tree produced fruit, which, in a long life of sanctity, and self-denying labour, made all rejoice in the entire change which, by direjoice in the entire change which, by divine grace, had been effected. Adorned with the beauty of holiness, he kept unspotted from the world. Those who knew him best agree that "he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith; and much people" through his instrumentality, "was added unto the Lord." He was a loar of neace, and was never so have was a lover of peace, and was never so hapby as when leading sinners to Christ. Whilst his literary attainments were considerable, his chief delight was in the Word of God. His mind was never clouded by error or perverted by vain sophistries. He was not decoyed by the ingnes fatui of sham-philosophy, but fixed his eye exceetly on the beacon-lights of Divine and immutable truth. Reason was always subjected to Revelation, and to the one supreme standard of truth he always paid the profoundest homage. In expounding truth in the pulpit, what gentle strong words did he utter—what winning aweetness of tone, earnestness of manner, pathos, tenderness, etc., characterized his utterances,
—whilst his countenance literally beamed with a hallowed expression not soon to be forgotten. His instructions were not in the cold formal spirit of a dogmatic teacher, but with the gushing freshness of a soul imbued with love and full of enthusiasm. Mr. McLean's preaching was not phiosophical, even in the best sense of the term; he was not in any degree argumen-

congregations. Hundreds hung upon his words. None questioned his sincerity, or

words. None questioned his sincerty, of doubted his meaning.

He was remarkably successful in the work of the ministry, in the vindication of truth, the conversion of sinners, and the edification of believers. He did his work with all his might; never swerving from his course, or relaxing in earnestness. In nainstaking efforts, in real, in self-sacrifice for the cause of Christ he was proverbial; painstaking offerts, in zeal, in self-sacrifice painstaking offerts, in zeal, in self-sacrifice for the cause of Christ he was proverbial; and such was his gentleness, that in no one instance was it ever known that he, in any way, repelled from his presence the humblest inquirer after truth. Great and varied were his labours, and great and honourable have been the results. The Rev. George Cheyne, in writing me, says of him, "he was a laborious, faithful, and successful laborer in the Lord's work, and has now gone to his reward." The Rev. D. H. Fletcher says,—"He made an excellent impression on my own mind when I visited him. I believe he was a truly godly man; enjoying much communion with his Saviour.

his Saviour.

Everywhere and always Mr. McLean was the loyal servant of the Lord Christ, the large-hearted lover of mankind, the sympathizing friend of the poor, the sick, and the bereaved—at once a child in sympathy, a man in the might of moral purpose. Nowhere was he greater than in the sick chamber. He could soothe the sorrowing, hind up the broken heart, and strengthen the faint and the weak. Truly he had been appointed to minister unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness." His prayers were remarkable for the same characteristics as his sermons. Calm and sweet and spiritual, felicitous in expression, and ample in his sermons. Calm and sweet and spiritual, felicitous in expression, and ample in their references, they were delightfully refreshing and stimulating, often carrying all those who joined with him to the very gate of heaven.

Mr. McLean might be followed into walks of life more sequestered and private.

Few men ever made so many friends among other classes. In his parish, the young and old, the rich and poor, regarded him with reverence and affection. He ed him with reverence and attection. He went in and out as the glory and pride of the village. What he was in the bosom of his family, the profound grief of his widow at her bereavement, sufficiently testified. Till within a short time previous to his death, he discharged the duties of his ministerial office, although, for more than a year and a half before his decease he suf-fered much from astimatical bronchitis, which ultimately proved fatal. In August, 1875, he was laid by with a severe attack of this trouble, and has never been really strong since. His last sermon was preach-ed on the 11th of February, 1877, from ed on the 11th of February, 1877, 1801.
Paslms li. 4. He was only out of his pulpit two Sabbaths before his death. To some of his old friends who called to see him while he was sick he said, "all is well." "It is all light." "There is therefore now no condemnation," etc. "If it is the Lord's will, I would like to labor for him a little lorger, the Lord's will he him a little longer; the Lord's will be done!" One of the last prayers he offered up to God was for a revival of spiritual religion in his own congregation. And only a few minutes before he drew his last breath, he was heard by his dear partner in life praying for his people, "that the Lord would take care of the flock when the under shepherd should be taken away." On Saturday morning, March 8rd, this blessed servant of Christ passed away and woke up to "everlasting life," after a pilgrimage of sixty-three years, forty-two of which he had spent in the service of the Master. His end was great peace.

One more laborer has gone to his reup to God was for a revival of spiritual re-

One more laborer has gone to his reward. The world and the Church have lost in him a faithful, loving and useful worker. God buries his workmen, but carries on his work, and will till earth restored shall be the vestibule of heaven. stored shall be the vestibule of heaven. The standard bearers fall, but the fight goes on, and will till truth, everywhere triumphant, shall fill the world with its light. The watchmen die on the walls, but God keeps the city. We look up from this darkened earth from the side of this newly-made grave to the land where there is no death, and see those who have gone from us gathered together in white robes around the throne of God.

I will close this sketch by quoting a few

I will close this sketch by quoting a few words from the Dundas True Banner of the 8th inst. "During all these years Mr. McLean has been at Strabane, he has been known as a faithful servant of Christ, and was greatly beloved by his congregation as well as Sabbath school, of which he was the superintendent. In fact his chief power seemed to be over the young,

he having a special interest in them. Nor were his labors confined to the church alone. All matters of temperance and education received his warmest support, he being for many years local superintendent of schools for West Flamboro. He also extended his cordial support to neighbouring churches of other denominations, and was very liberal and generous in his views. In the person of Mr. McLean were combined the qualities of a loving pastor, kind neighbor, and warm-hearted friend, and he will not soon be forgotten. On Tues-day afternoon, the 6th instant, the remains of the late pastor were conveyed to the burying ground at Stra-bane, the funeral being one of the largest ever witnessed in that neighborhood. Sevever witnessed in that neighborhood. Several ministers and elders acted as pall-bearers, and prayer was offered up at the grave by Rev. Dr. McKay, of Puslinch, after which service was held in the church, the pulpit of which was heavily draped in black. The services were conducted by the Rev. Mr. Murray of Grimsby, and prayer was offered by Revs. Messrs. Flotcher of Hamilton, and Ohrystal of Flamboro; a portion of Seripture was read by Rev. E. W. Waits, of Waterdown, and an address delivered to the people by Rev. John Laing, of Dundas, and the meeting was concluded by the benediction being pronounced by Rev. Mr. Turner, Methodist minister of Carliele."

E. W. Waits.

Waterdown, March 18th, 1877.

[A brief notice of Mr. McLean was given]

[A brief notice of Mr. McLean was given in these columns shortly after his death. At the request of several members of his charge we publish the more extended sketch tative; yet he had a great power over his furnished by Mr. Waits.—ED. B.A.P.]

Official Announcements.

MEETINGS OF PRESBYTERIES. LINOSAY. -At Woodville, on the isst Tuesday of

Innosay.—At Woodville, on the last Tuesday of May
QUEBEC —At Three kiners, on the first Wednesday of July, at ten o'clock a.m.

Paris.—Within Dumfries Street Church, Paris, on the first Tuesday of July, at electen a.m. Congregational payments to the Presbytery fund are payable at this meeting.

Einoscon.—In St. Andrew's Hall, Kingdon, on 10th of July, at ip.m.

Whithy.—At Whitby, on the third Tuesday of May, at il a.m.

Finockyllake.—At Presectt, on Tuesday, 13rd of July, at 7p.m.

PITERBORD!—At Millerook, on the second Tuesday of July, at Il a.m.

Chatham—In St. tudrw's Church Chatham—on the first Tuesday of July, at Il 10°clock, a.m.

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