

though in the United States, was connected with the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and on the roll of the Presbytery of Brockville. His long pastorate, genial disposition, noble presence, and great ability as a preacher made him much respected on both sides of the St. Lawrence.

MR. JAMES LANG, one of the oldest elders of the Presbyterian Church in the Dominion, died at Chateauguay Basin, December 19th 1884, in his ninetieth year. He was an elder in the West Kirk, Greenock, before leaving Scotland, fifty-four years ago! His was a bright and Christian example to those around him. Ever earnest and zealous in all good works, he was respected by all who knew him, and his memory is "blessed."

MR. JAMES BETHUNE, Q.C., an elder in St. Andrew's congregation, Toronto, died on the 18th of December, in the 45th year of his age. Mr. Bethune was a native of the County of Glengarry. After practising law for some years in Cornwall, he removed to Toronto, where he occupied a distinguished position at the bar, and enjoyed the respect and esteem of all who knew him.

MRS. TURNBULL.—At Bay View, N.S., on the 13th December, there passed away to her eternal rest, Ann, widow of William Turnbull, a lady 95 years of age. Till very shortly before her death she was able to move about the house in possession of all her faculties. Her last words were, "Jesus loves me." Her husband came to Nova Scotia in the same vessel with the late Dr. James McGregor, ninety-eight years ago. He and Mrs. Turnbull settled at Digby Out, and for more than fifty years their house was the home of every minister and missionary who visited the place. When there was no preacher, service was held in Mr. Turnbull's house. Mrs. T. was a true "mother in Israel," who will be tenderly and gratefully remembered by scores of our ministers.

And when it is all over, and our feet will run no more, and our hands are helpless, and we have scarcely strength to murmur a last prayer, then we shall see that instead of needing a larger field, we have left untilled many corners of our single acre, and that none of it is fit for our Master's eye, were it not for the softening shadow of the Cross.—*Edward Garret.*

## Ecclesiastical News.

THE RIGHT REV. JOHN JACKSON, D.D., Bishop of London, died at Fulham Palace, suddenly, on the 6th of January. The deceased prelate was translated from the See of Lincoln, to that of the Metropolis in 1869, in succession to Dr. Tait, who then became Archbishop of Canterbury. For the first time in the history of the disestablished Church of Ireland, it has devolved upon the diocesan Synod of Dublin, Glendalough and Kildare, to elect an Archbishop. The occasion was the resignation of Archbishop Trench. Of the several candidates, Lord Plunkett, Bishop of Meath, obtained the largest number of votes, and was accordingly elected. The Congregational Church has lost one of its foremost ministers, in the person of Dr. W. Lindsay Alexander, who died recently in London. Dr. Lindsay was born in Edinburgh, in 1808, and became minister of a Congregational Church there in 1835, and, subsequently, Professor of Theology. He was an eminent Theologian and a voluminous writer. The Rev. Robert Taylor, of Upper Norwood, London, has been nominated for the moderatorship of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of England, which meets in April. The *formula* and the *ruling elder* are becoming fruitful themes of discussion among English Presbyterians. Dr. J. Munro Gibson, who, when in Chicago, became accustomed to the American Church Polity, is made to say, according to the public prints, to his co-presbyters, that "Doctrine and system of doctrine mean the same thing; and why not say 'system of doctrine' in the formula to please those who prefer it to 'doctrine'?" The answer to that of course is, because there are some who advocate the change, on the express ground that to them the two expressions do not mean the same thing! The urgent necessity for making any change in the formula has not yet been made very apparent, and it is natural that all such departures from use and wont, should be closely scrutinized by the public, who are apt to speak of these nice distinctions, as a "juggling with words, made use of to conceal the fact, that old ground is being quitted, and new positions taken up." As to the other question—the rights of ruling elders to preside in meetings of Presbytery and Synod, the matter was pretty fully discussed in the Presbytery of Liverpool lately, in connection with the adoption of a new Book of Order for the Church which, in the usual form, intimates that the moderatorship of all the Church courts is restricted to ordained ministers. The Presbytery of Darlington have, it seems, taken exception to this restrictive clause, and given notice of their intention to overturn the Synod to that effect. Mr. S. Stitt, in Liverpool, Presbytery, moved that the said overture be approved. "He thought it was unkind of the ministers to adopt a rule excising one half of their brethren, and preventing them from