

The call to Mr. Matheson from Martintown and Williamstown was declined by that gentleman, as he had made up his mind that if he left Osnabruck at present it would be to go as Synod's Missionary to the Red River Settlement, which he had been asked to do.

The Presbytery instructed the Rev. Andrew Melville to prepare circulars announcing the programme to be observed by its ministers when going in different bodies throughout the bounds, with a view to stimulate the missionary zeal of the various congregations, and to raise funds for the purpose of discharging the Presbytery's obligations to its unpaid probationers. These were the matters transacted of any public interest. The Presbytery's next meeting will (D.V.) be held at Prescott on the 1st Tuesday in February at 3 o'clock p.m. *W. Ferrie, A.M. P.C.*

Communication.

MEMOIR OF THE LATE REV. JAMES SKINNER, LONDON TOWNSHIP.

"The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance." The portion of Scripture from which these words are taken (Ps. 112) gives a beautiful and full description of the man, one of whose epithets is "the righteous." He is a man of piety, fearing God, and delighting in all his commandments,—a man of true rectitude,—a man of genuine philanthropy and benevolence, who looks with a brother's eye on his fellow-men,—sees their necessities, especially their spiritual necessities, and does all he can towards their removal. When his earthly course of holy, exemplary and beneficent living is ended, his name, his character, and usefulness to others shall be long perpetuated in the sphere of acting where he moved,—and his memorial shall indeed be everlasting in the Divine book of remembrance, to be produced on that great day when the rewards of rich grace shall be measured out to every one of the righteous. The writer of this memoir has no doubt that these remarks will be verified in no ordinary degree by the sketch about to be given of the late Rev. James Skinner.

He was a native of the city of Dundee in Scotland, and was born in the first year of the present century. His parents were in humble life, of that honourable class in Scotland who were characterized by much sound intelligence, and christian piety and morality; and from among whom individuals have from time to time raised themselves to be able, laborious, and successful ministers of Jesus Christ. His father died when he was but a boy; and his widowed mother, left with a considerable family, could not afford him the means of a literary education. His heart seems to have been early impressed, with religious truth. His parents were consistent members of the Secession Presbyterian Church, and trained up their children in the way they should go. In after life he used sometimes to mention to his family that so early as his eighth year he had a strong desire to be a minister of the Gospel. This desire never forsook him; and through all the difficulties he had to encounter he progressed in mental culture, until he was prepared to go to College, and by his own efforts had realized the means of doing so. It was in 1824 that Mr. Skinner, first entered College at St. Andrews, where he studied diligently for three sessions. His fourth session was at Marischal College, Aberdeen. I have before me the certificates given him by the Professors whose prelections he enjoyed, scholarly and talented men in their day. They all testify to his steady attendance, great assiduity, and proficiency. Dr. Thomas Chalmers was the Professor of Moral Philosophy under whom Mr. Skinner studied. He prosecuted his Biblical and Theological studies at Glasgow, under the Rev.