

THE LATE REV. DAVID EVANS.—This excellent man and exemplary minister died at Prescott of chronic dysentery on the 19th ult., in the 74th year of his age. Mr. Evans was a native of County Tyrone, Ireland, a student of Glasgow University, and a licentiate of the Secession body in Ireland, now incorporated with the Irish Presbyterian Church. About the age of 24, when he had been a probationer of only a few months' standing, he was ordained to the ministry, and inducted to a charge in Pomeroy, in the county of his birth, where he remained for 22 years. He then emigrated to Canada, beginning his ministry in this country at St. Therese, near Montreal. Shortly after his arrival, he was admitted by the Synod of our church. Having laboured for nearly four years in St. Therese, he was moved to Richmond, C. W., where he had a very extensive field of labour, consisting of seven stations, and where he remained for about eleven years

From this place he was translated to Kitley, of which he continued to be minister until, owing to bodily infirmities, the Synod in 1862 allowed him to retire. Mr. Evans was a kind-hearted, self-sacrificing man. By his humble, courteous, and frank deportment, he gained the affections of his people, and they soon learned to look upon him as their steadfast friend. On a very small living he managed to educate four sons for professional pursuits, one of whom is the minister of Litchfield. As a preacher he had a very graceful delivery, while the matter of his discourse was thoroughly evangelical. His constant aim was to preach Christ and him crucified. The Master whom he served did not forsake him at his latter end. Perfectly contented to suffer as much and as long as the Lord might please, he at the same time longed to be with Christ. He leaves a widow, and four of nine children by his first marriage.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the Presbyterian.

Last Sunday I went with a friend to a Presbyterian church in the county of Lincoln. The service was to be at half-past ten, and a stranger was expected to preach, the regular pastor being absent. A goodly number had assembled, comprising some who had come some distance, judging from the carriages and waggons at the church gate. The time for beginning the service arrived, but the minister had not come. The people sat patiently for fifteen or twenty minutes, when a man arose and said possibly the minister had mistaken the hour of meeting—eleven being the time at which public worship usually commenced. He would probably be there at that time; and by way of filling up the time for a few minutes, they might sing a few verses of a psalm. The people at once fell in with the suggestion, and got out their books. He gave out the Hundredth Psalm, started it to Old Hundred, and the congregation sung it very well. They then waited about a quarter of an hour longer, when some of them began to show signs of impatience, and one or two went out. The same person then spoke to another, I think addressing him as *elder*, and said he would be happy to give out another psalm, and read a portion of Scripture, if he would engage in prayer; but he said as there was another church in the village, the people might prefer going to it. The other man then addressing the people, said "he was sorry to see such a congregation, assembled for worship, having to be dismissed for want of some one to conduct

it. If the church had seen fit in its wisdom to provide a proper form of worship there need be no difficulty in an emergency of this kind, as there would always be some one present who could read the prayers and devotional lessons appointed for the day, but in the absence of this it could not be expected that any private member could, on the spur of the moment, extemporize such a form of words as would be either satisfactory to himself or profitable to them; he therefore agreed with the elder in recommending them to adjourn to a Baptist Church near by," and so the people went away. I observed, however, that only a few went to the other church, the most of them going some other way, from which it might be inferred that they would willingly have remained for an hour to a service in their own church no matter how imperfectly performed.

It has often occurred to me that the Presbyterian Church would do well to adopt a *form of public worship*, and here was an instance of the want of it being sensibly felt in a country congregation. Who knows with what feelings they had come together? It is not too much to suppose that some of them had in the experience of the past week met with trials or been beset with temptations, for which it would have been a real relief to give expression to the words of contrition and penitence, in the hearing of Him who has promised to be where two or three are gathered in His name. Who knows how many burdens have been lightened and pains of heart relieved by the utterance of the simple confes-