

Obituary Notices.

THE LATE JOHN REDPATH, MONTREAL.

On the 5th March, after a paralytic illness of nearly a year, during which he suffered little pain, and enjoyed a good degree of consciousness, John Redpath, Esq., of Terrace Bank, Montreal, closed a long career of usefulness by a peaceful death, at the age of 73, in the midst of his family. He was born in Earlstoun, Scotland, in 1796, and was early left an orphan. After learning his trade as a builder, he emigrated to Canada in 1816, and has resided since that time in Montreal, with the exception of one year in Quebec, and a few years on the Rideau Canal during its construction. Mr. Redpath took a lively interest in the development of the resources of Canada, and aided in many public improvements by his means and management. He was one of the first promoters of a forwarding company on the Ottawa and Rideau route, and he was partner in a steamboat company between Montreal and Quebec. He was largely interested in the Montreal Telegraph Company from its commencement, and more recently took a heavy interest in copper and slate mines in the Eastern Townships, iron mines at Hull, and coal mines in Nova Scotia. He was the first to turn attention to sugar-refining in Canada, and erected and carried on the extensive refinery near St. Gabriel Locks, which constitutes such a prominent and important part of the manufacturers of this city. For thirty-five years he has been a Director in the Bank of Montreal, of which he was Vice-President since the death of the Hon. Peter McGill. He was an active Alderman of the first City Council of Montreal, and first President of the Mechanics' Institute.

He was characterized by the possession of good common sense, a clear judgment, moral courage, and great energy. Those qualities manifested themselves in the many secular and sacred enterprises in which he engaged; and the secret of his unusual success in business is not to be sought in circumstances more favourable than those under which others set out with him in life, but rather, under God's blessing, in his high aim, firm will, dauntless courage, and indomitable perseverance. He had always confidence in hard work as sure to meet its reward; and for many years he allowed himself no holidays, except Sabbath, and often worked three and four hours per day more than his associates in toil. In business he maintained that integrity which is so essential to the commercial morality and prosperity of our country; and in his connection with several of the great financial institutions of our land, he advocated sound business principles and discouraged those which were doubtful and unsafe.

It was, however, in works of Christian philanthropy that Mr. Redpath found his highest and most congenial field of usefulness. In 1831 he became one of the governors of the Montreal General Hospital; in 1859 he was elected President of the Board of Governors. He manifested his interest in this institution in various ways, and often spent hours among its wards, offering the consolations of the Gospel to the sick and the dying.

At the first public meeting in Montreal on behalf of Foreign Missions, Mr. Redpath presided. A Missionary Society was formed, of which he continued President for ten years. He afterwards became President of the Labrador Mission, which has done such excellent service among the long-neglected people of that region. Some twenty years ago, he took an active part in the formation of the Montreal Sabbath Observance Society, and