



OF THE

## Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia and the adjoining Provinces.

"IF I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET HER CUNNING."—PSALM 137, v. 5

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### OBITUARY NOTICE

#### The Late Hon. Wm. Morris.

We copy from the *Montreal Gazette* the ensuing obituary notice of a gentleman who did much for our Church in Canada. It required no ordinary man to encounter the opposition with which Mr. Morris successfully coped in the Legislature and elsewhere in the defence of the rights of our Church. The Church owed him a deep debt of gratitude, and, now that he is called to his rest, many will mourn for him, but not as without hope, for in his long and useful career he has left abundant evidence that he had made his peace with God, and that with him to die was his great gain. Besides his active public services in the cause of his Church, he was also warmly instrumental in the founding of Queen's College, and did much to further its establishment.

We understand that he also felt a lively interest in the Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and has left it a legacy of £100—the first which it has ever received.

It will be long ere we look upon his like again; but it will be well for our Church if our young laymen strive to imitate the example he set of intelligent usefulness and a Christian life.—*Presbyterian.*

The death of the Honorable William Morris, as we have already stated, severed another link which connected us with the past political times of this Province, and will make many cast back a glance at the political struggles before the Union, in which he took a prominent part, and to which he owed his subsequent political position. His many friends, who mourn his departure, have yet the consolation of feeling that he died full of years, and after he had well discharged all the duties that devolved upon him in the course of a long and active life.

For some years past, from failing health and strength, he had ceased to take any

active part either in politics or business; and eighteen months before his decease his wife took her departure, death having found her at the post of duty, watching by his bed-side. Yet, though the last years of his life were passed amid suffering and the quietude of a sick bed, he was not, in the bustle of their more active life, forgotten by many friends. He had done much to write his name in the history of his adopted country, and the Upper House, whose dignity he had contributed materially to establish and preserve, did no more than was his due in placing on record their sense of his merits. One by one the veterans of our country are passing away, leaving behind in many instances, as in the one now before us, to their posterity the legacy of an honorable name, and the remembrance of lives of rectitude and usefulness. When such men pass from among us, it is well to recall the past and learn a lesson from the incidents of their history; and we have therefore taken means to prepare the ensuing sketch of a useful life.

The subject of this brief notice was born at Paisley, Scotland, on the 31st October, 1786, and was in his 72nd year at the period of his decease.

He emigrated with his parents, who were then in comfortable circumstances, from Scotland to Upper Canada in 1801. Three years afterwards his father, having settled in this city, was engaged in business, but having lost a homeward-bound ship in the Strait of Belle Isle, and no part of the cargo having been insured, owing to the carelessness of an agent, and having sustained other heavy losses, he was compelled to close his business in Montreal and retire to a farm near Brockville.

In 1809 his father died, leaving large debts in Montreal and Scotland, and Mr. Morris continued at Brockville with his brother and the younger members of the family, helping to support them by his exertions, till the war of 1812 with the United States commenced, when he left

his business and joined the militia flank companies as an ensign, having received his commission from Gen. Brock. In October of that year he volunteered, with Lieut.-Colonel Lethbridge, in the attack of the British forces on Ogdensburg, and commanded the only militia gun-boat that sustained injury, one man having been killed and another wounded at his side by a cannon shot. In 1813 he was present and took an active part in the capture of Ogdensburg, having been detached in command of a party to take possession of the old French forts then at that place; and, having performed the duty, his comrades in arms, some of whom are still living, speak in high terms of his soldierly bearing, and of the affection with which he inspired his men, during this early portion of his career. He continued to serve till 1814, when a large body of troops having arrived in the colony from the Peninsula, he left the militia service and returned to Brockville, to assist his brother in the management of their business there.

In 1816 he proceeded with the military and emigrant settlers to the military settlement near the Rideau, and there commenced mercantile business at what is now the substantial and prosperous town of Perth, but which was then a wilderness. He continued for some years to bestow his active attention on the mercantile business, conducted at Perth by himself and at Brockville by his brother, the late Alexander Morris, Esq., and, having prospered, in 1820 an incident took place that marked the character of the man and was an index to all his future career. In that year he and his brother received two handsome pieces of plate from the creditors of their late father in Glasgow, for having voluntarily and without solicitation paid in full all the debts owing by his estate. Such respect for a father's memory indicated a high-toned rectitude that could not fail to command success.

In this year, also, the political career of