

THE
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" THAT THE SOUL BE WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE, IT IS NOT GOOD."—Prov. xix. 2.  
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[FOR THE INSTRUCTOR.]

THE LATE REV. JAMES MURDOCH.

MR. EDITOR,—

An estimable descendant of the late Rev James Murdoch has placed in my hands a few of his manuscript sermons, with liberty to select for publication in the *Instructor*; one of which I herewith send you, assured that you will be pleased to give it insertion. Most of his papers were consumed by fire. As few persons now living can have any personal recollection of him, and these few are rapidly passing away, you will doubtless esteem it a pleasant duty to place on the pages of a journal which goes into the hands of many in the Church, of which he was one of the earliest founders in Nova Scotia, the following particulars.

Mr Murdoch was a native of the North of Ireland: but the date of his birth I have not been able to ascertain. In the year 1765 he, with Messrs. John France and Robert Cowan, was appointed* on a mission to Nova Scotia by the General Associate (then also called Antiburgher) Synod of Scotland. Messrs. Cowan and France declined the work. It was with difficulty too that the services of Mr Murdoch on this mission were secured, on account of the demand for his labors in his native country, and especially on account of a call from the congregation of Lisburn. Eventually, however, the Synod authorised his ordination on condition that he should repair to Nova Scotia. He was accordingly ordained by the Presbytery of Newtown-limavady in September, 1766, and forthwith proceeded on his mission agreeably to appointment. This was anterior by a few years to the American revolution, and only eleven years after the Acadian French were expelled from Nova Scotia. In 1764, two years previous, the population of the Province amounted to only a little over ten thousand souls.

Mr Murdoch appears to have been the first Presbyterian missionary to Nova Scotia who remained in the country. The Rev Mr Kinloch, who preceded him by a few months, remained only three years, when he returned to Scotland, and being ordained in Paisley ended his days there. It is much

* McKerrow's History of the Secession Church.