

Obituary.

MR. JAMES WICKSON.

On Sunday, the 5th ult., in Zion Church, Toronto, the Pastor, Rev. J. G. Manly, delivered a sermon in relation to the recent decease of Mr. JAMES WICKSON, founded on these words—"For to me to live is Christ, to die is gain." After adverting, in the introduction, to the particularity of the Apostle's utterance, the preacher proceeded to show that the Christian's life is both from Christ and for Christ, and that his correspondent death is gainful; and then illustrated the whole subject by the following account of the deceased :—

Such a life and such a death belonged to our dear departed friend and brother, who was known among men as JAMES WICKSON. He was a member of this church from its commencement, in 1834, which was also the year of his arrival in Canada, till his decease, aged 76, on the 3rd day of last month (August), and a deacon till his growing infirmities compelled his retirement. His love for the church of his Canadian choice knew no abatement, and his character in it, as well as in England, was without spot or stain. During an eighteen months' vacancy in the Toronto practical pastorate, from the departure of the Rev. W. Merrifield, in 1836, till the Rev. John Roaf's arrival, in 1837, and in the occasional absence of a minister to occupy the pulpit, Mr. Wickson conducted the service and read a sermon. In various ways he proved himself an active, earnest, efficient Christian; particularly in his kind and wise regard to children and young persons. Both in England and in this country, he was a zealous and successful Sunday-school worker, not only in connection with his own church but otherwise, as in this very city and at Eglington and Yorkville. Soon after his arrival he established, and usually conducted a prayer meeting in his own house, in Yorkville, which was long remembered and cordially acknowledged by many as a means of great profit and enjoyment. In the promotion of the total disuse of alcoholic drinks, he was a foremost and effective labourer. His clear intellect, facility of expression, and power of apt and enlivening illustration, as well as his genuine sympathy with the wants and interests of his fellow men, qualified him for effective speech in the Sunday-school, the prayer meeting, and the Temperance assembly. His affection for the young was evinced in his sympathy with the students of the Congregational Theological Academy, whom he often invited to the refreshment of his pleasant country residence; and it was he who first sought to lead the present respected pastor of the Bond Street Congregational Church into the work of the ministry. Though strongly attached to his own free form of Christianity, from the commencement of his spiritual life, he evinced a noble absence of prejudice and sectarianism. Before the formation of this church, he worshipped by turns with the Presbyterians, under the ministry of the Rev. J. Harris; with the Baptists, under the ministry of the Rev. Mr. Stewart; and occasionally with the coloured people, under the ministry of the Rev. Washington Christian. It deserves to be particularly noticed how he rose above the unworthy prejudice of colour, at a time when the slave power was so rampant, and prejudice of colour so rife. He took great interest in Mr. Christian, as an earnest Christian worker, and accorded him the hospitalities of his table.

Our departed brother's sympathies and activities took a different and wider range, aiding in the settlement of the Clergy Reserve question, and co-operating with the Bible Society and the Religious Tract Society. He appears to have acted on the principle of the old Roman, but hallowed and empowered by Heavenly influence—"I am a man, and I count nothing belonging to man foreign to me."

To read the truth at home, and to hear the truth abroad, as well as to