

child he had known the Holy Scriptures; and the great radical truths of the Gospel, as they had obtained a strong hold of his mind and heart, constituted the great theme of his preaching. His style was at once forcible and perspicuous, dignified but not pompous, plain but not mean.

As a pastor he was faithful and assiduous, indefatigable in his attention to the sick and the destitute, kind and affable to all his flock, and to none more so than to the lambs of the flock. Hence arose a strong feeling of mutual and reciprocal affection between minister and people,—an affection but too suddenly and unexpectedly torn asunder by the stroke of death.

It was in the arduous discharge of an act of pastoral duty, from which his high sense of the sacredness of an engagement already made would not allow him shrink, when even the elements in one of our severest Canadian March storms would have seemed a call from Providence to restrain him, that he contracted that mortal disease which, after a day and a night of indescribable suffering, terminated his earthly labours. As a member of Presbytery and of the higher Court Mr. McLaurin was more a modest observer than an obtrusive actor, being often diffident of himself, when inferior men were confident. His judgement on ecclesiastical matters was, however, always discriminative and just. And no man ever yielded to the wishes of his brethren in any act of imposed duty with a sweeter grace, or greater readiness, than he was wont to do. While at the same time his brethren, both of his own and other Presbyteries, never can forget the cheerful and graceful readiness with which he came to their aid on any moment of emergency. In a word no man ever established higher claims on the affection and regard of all his brethren than the lamented deceased.

Such is a brief and most imperfect sketch of one of those brethren over whose death, in the vigor of his days, and in the meridian of his usefulness, this Presbytery are this day called to mourn.

Mr. John McKenzie, minister of Williamstown, was the next whom it pleased God to remove from the midst of us. Mr. McKenzie was born at Fort Augustus, parish of Boleskine, Inverness-shire, Scotland, in May, 1790. Like Mr. McLaurin, he was from his youth dedicated to the sacred office of the ministry by the devoted piety of Christian parents. After completing that simple, yet substantial and efficient course of preliminary education, which is furnished in the parochial schools of Scotlands, Mr. McKenzie was removed to the University and King's College, Aberdeen; and such was his proficiency in his preparatory education, that he carried the first competition bursary over many rivals on entering College. During his course he was distinguished alike for his industry and exemplary deportment. Like most young men of his standing his vacations were devoted to the

instruction of youth, first, as teacher of the Parish School of Urquhart, in the Presbytery of Inverness, and afterwards as assistant teacher in the Grammar School of Old Aberdeen. After finishing his College course, he was licensed to preach the Gospel by the Presbytery of Aberdeen in 1819, about which time he received a call to become their pastor from the congregation of Williamstown, Canada, then vacant by the death, some years before, of the much esteemed and venerable John Bethune, the first minister of the Church of Scotland settled in Canada. The circumstances of the times rendered the step of calling an unseen, an unheard pastor necessary; and, though hazardous and unadvisable in any circumstances, in the present case it proved a mutual blessing. By special permission Mr. McKenzie was accordingly ordained in 1819 by the Presbytery of Aberdeen as pastor over that congregation, among whom he laboured with apostolic sympathy and faithfulness to the period of his death, being 36 years.

He found himself, on his arrival at Williamstown, the only minister of the Church of Scotland in Upper Canada, and was justly regarded, from that time as being next to Mr. Bethune, the father of the Canadian Presbyterian Church, in connection with the Church of Scotland, and accordingly on the first formation of the Synod of the Church in 1831, Mr. McKenzie was unanimously chosen Moderator. He lived to see the Synod increased into 6 Presbyteries, and its ministers to 80 members,—a number which, but for the calamitous Secession of 1844, consequent upon the disruption of the Church of Scotland, would have been more than doubled.

In person Mr. McKenzie was of a slight frame, but of great activity and endurance. Like his master he was continually going about doing good. In intellect, Mr. McKenzie was more clear than commanding. In style he was remarkable for his taste and correctness, and his judgment was sound and eminently practical. Susceptible of strong partialities and antipathies, he was a warm friend and a manly opponent. But great benevolence of heart was his distinguishing characteristic. No one ever appealed to his sympathy in vain. His hand was ever open to the poor, and the afflicted and distressed always found in him the sympathizing friend and comforter. As a husband and a relation, he was most devoted and dutiful. As a neighbour and member of society, no man ever gained more the good will and respect of all who approached him, without distinction of name or party. At his burial, Roman Catholics vied with Protestants in doing him honor.

In his ministerial and pastoral relations, Mr. McKenzie was eminently successful and useful, as a preacher his style and manner were unassuming and unimpassioned, but always chaste, practical and pleasing. But it was as a pastor that he shone, rather than as a preacher. In the pastoral field

few had attained to greater success, whether that success be measured by the salutary influence, he obtained over his flock, or by the respect and affection with which he was regarded by them in return.

Mr. McKenzie did that which few pastors can venture upon with impunity: he interested himself minutely and extensively in the temporal dealings and concerns of the people, and that in a manner that often benefited them, while his pastoral influence remained uninjured and undiminished; and all this as the result of the deep conviction, created by all his dealings, of his simple-hearted and disinterested beneficence. In a word he taught and influenced his people more by his blameless life than by his persuasive words.

As a member of Church courts Mr. McKenzie was well informed and efficient, but never obtrusive nor dogmatical; and as his brethren in days past, felt strengthened and encouraged by his presence and his counsel, so we are this day called to mourn at seeing his seat vacant, and to sorrow that we shall no more see his face, nor hear his voice raised up among us.

Faintly and imperfectly as the characters of these two brethren in Christ just removed from their midst have thus been delineated, they will abundantly serve to show how deep and solemn is the call made this day upon this Presbytery for sorrow and lamentation.

While then we would humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, and lie low before Him, and would acknowledge in these bereavements, His righteous and sovereign will, we would at the same time call upon our souls to be stirred up to greater diligence and faithfulness in the work of the Lord.

On an application from the congregations of Williamstown, and Martintown through their Elders, 7 of whom were present, for the services of a Missionary, the Presbytery appointed Mr. Donald Macdonald, Student of Divinity, Queen's College, to act as a Catechist within the bounds of Martintown, Williamstown and Lochiel, for 6 months, his time being equally divided among them. This appointment appears to give great satisfaction to the people among whom he is to labour, and promises much future good, as Mr. Macdonald is able to address them in the language they love, that of the *Gael*.

The Presbytery appointed Mr. McPherson and Mr. Scott to dispense the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper to the congregation at Martintown on the second Sabbath of June next; Mr. Urquhart to preach on Friday, and Mr. McLean on Saturday.

The Presbytery also appointed the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper to be dispensed in the congregation of Williamstown, on the fourth Sabbath of June next, Mr. Macpherson to preside, and to make such arrangements as may be necessary with such members of other Presbyteries, as are expected to take part in the services.