

denly in this business. A subscription-list was opened, and in one day £100 were raised, and a place of worship in due time was erected.

In the year 1812 his name was put down on the stations as Supernumerary: but from that time to the period of his decease, he continued to render many and important services to the church; and in her most endearing recollection is his name enshrined. Nor did he forget her in his last will. To the old chapel, to which he was connected by so many affecting associations, he left two hundred and fifty pounds; and to the poor of the Wesleyan society in Halifax, the sum of fifty pounds. But "our fathers, where are they? and the Prophets, do they live for ever?" The time came, when the man who had been for so many years looked up to as the father of Methodism in this Province, must pass from the fellowship of the militant to that of the triumphant church. Indications of the rapid approaches of death were perceived by his friends for some weeks; but they were scarcely prepared to hear of his removal when it actually took place. Conversing with him a few days before his death, on the awful disease which was raging in our town, he, with his usual heavenly smile, said, "It does not matter; I must soon go: whether it be by the cholera, or" (pointing to his swollen legs) this dropsy, it is all the same; I leave it to my Master to choose." But his days were numbered. On Sunday, September 6th, 1834, he felt himself worse than usual. I saw him just before the time of evening service. His conduct towards me was, as it has been from the first hour I saw him, that of the utmost kindness and affection. Knowing that my whole time had been occupied in visiting the cholera patients at the hospital, and in their habitations, and in attending to the regular duties of the Circuit, he feelingly entreated me to be careful of my health for the sake of my family and the church. I did not, however, think that his end was so near.

When called to visit him early in the morning on which he died, Sept. 9th, I felt the force of the often-quoted language of Dr. Young:

"The chamber where the good man meets his fate  
Is privileged beyond the common walk of virtuous life,  
Quite in the verge of heaven."

I found him contending with the last enemy, but in perfect possession of his reason, although so oppressed by the complicated afflictions under which he laboured in his last hour, as to find very great difficulty in speaking. "I trust, Sir," said I "you feel that Saviour to be precious whom you have held forth so long to others." He said, "All is well; all is peace; no fear, no doubt; let Him do as he will; He knows what is best." I referred to his long and useful life. He said very impressively, "Leave all that; say no more. All is well." We joined in prayer; and his spirit was evidently much engaged in the solemn exercise. On leaving the room, I said, "You will soon be in that glory of which you have so often spoken in the course of your long ministry." "I shall soon be there," he said, "where Christ is gone before me." After this he sunk very fast, and spoke little, and that with considerable difficulty. His last words were, "Give my farewell blessing to your family, and to the society;" and, "God bless you. All is well."

As a man, Mr. Black was affable, generous, prudent, and one that followed after peace. As a Christian, his piety was deep, uniform, active, and growing. As a Minister, he possessed a very considerable knowledge of divinity. He had given attention to reading and study, and could rightly divide the word of truth. He was well acquainted with human nature; possessed a longing desire for the salvation of souls; was faithful, affectionate, and assiduous. In short, he had all those qualifications which never fail to make the Minister, respected, beloved, and useful. As the head of a family, "he walked before his house

in a perfect way," as his journals and letters abundantly testify. His reward is with his God; and being dead, he yet speaketh. To Ministers he has left an example, and to the church an admonition to be faithful. A funeral sermon was preached in the old chapel, from 2 Tim. iv. 7, 8; when a gracious feeling pervaded the congregation. May the effects be permanent and saving!

#### SELECT REPOSITORY.

##### STEAM ENGINES IN 1834.

It appears from a late valuable publication, *Navarrete's Collection of Spanish Voyages and Discoveries*, that the first known experiment of propelling a vessel by the agency of steam, was made at Barcelona, more than eighty-five years before the idea of procuring motion by means of it was first started by Brancas in Italy; more than a century before this power was applied to any useful purpose by the marquis of Worcester in England; and near three centuries before Fulton, adapting and combining the inventions of a host of contemporary mechanics, successfully solved the same wonderful problem in the United States. Singular, however as the fact may be, it is fully established by various documents lately found in the archives of Simarcas, and is so circumstantially stated as to be incontrovertible.

In the year 1543, a certain sea-officer, called Blancas de Garcay, offered to exhibit before the Emperor Charles V. a machine by means of which a vessel should be made to move, without the assistance of either sails or oars. Though the proposal appeared ridiculous, the man was so much in earnest, that the Emperor appointed a commission to witness and report upon the experiment. The experiment was made on the 17th of June, 1543, on board a vessel called the Trinidad, of two hundred barrels burden, which had lately arrived with wheat from Colibra. The vessel was seen at a given moment to move forward, and turn about at pleasure, without sail or oar, or human agency, and without any visible mechanism, except a huge boiler of hot water, and a complicated combination of wheels and paddles.

The assembled multitude were filled with astonishment and admiration. The harbour of Barcelona resounded with plaudits; and the commissioners, who shared in the general enthusiasm, all made favourable reports to the Emperor, except only the Treasurer Ravago. This man, from some unknown cause was prejudiced against the inventor and his machine. He took great pains to undervalue it, stating, among other things, that it could be of little use, since it only propelled the vessel two leagues in three hours; that it was very expensive and complicated, and that there was great danger of the boiler's bursting frequently. The experiment over, Gavay collected his machinery, and having deposited the wooden part in the royal arsenal, carried the rest to his own house.

Notwithstanding the invidious representations of Ravago, Gavay was applauded for his invention, and taken into favour with the emperor, who promoted him one grade, gave him two hundred thousand *maravedises*, and ordered the jealous treasurer to pay all the expenses of the experiment. But Charles was then taken up with some military expedition, and an occasion of conferring inestimable benefit on mankind was neglected for the business of bloodshed and devastation; while, the honour which Barcelona might have received from perpetuating this noble discovery was reserved for a city which had not yet started in the career of existence.

The fact that a vessel was propelled by steam as early as the sixteenth century, thus rendered certain, the question next occurs, whether it in any way detracts from the honour due to Fulton, not for having made the first successful application of steam to purposes of navigation, (for he was even anticipated by