

## Obituary.

### DEATH OF REV. DR. BURNS.

This venerable and excellent old man was taken to his rest on the 19th August, after a life of untiring activity and usefulness, at the advanced age of 81 years. From an obituary notice of him by the Rev. Andrew Kennedy, of London, we learn that the Dr. was born in Barrowstonness, Scotland, where, after going through a preparatory education, he became a literary and theological student of the University of Edinburgh, and was licensed to preach the Gospel in 1810, when 19 years of age. Soon after he was appointed one of the ministers in the large and populous town of Paisley, near Glasgow, where for thirty-four years he laboured indefatigably, not only in the pulpit and in pastorate work from house to house, but with the pen of a ready writer, producing a large number of publications, all bearing on usefulness around him and throughout the land he so much loved.

Dr. Burns took an active part in the discussions that eventuated in the Disruption of the Kirk of Scotland, and in 1843, along with four hundred of his brother ministers, came out of the State Church, with Dr. Chalmers and others at their head, and laid the foundation of what is now the Free Church of Scotland.

In 1844 Dr. Burns, along with Dr. Cunningham, came out on a visit to the Presbyterian churches in North America. The result was a large disruption here from the Church of Scotland, and fraternization with the Free Church. Dr. Burns went back to Scotland, but in 1845 came out with his family; was installed minister of Knox Church, in Toronto, and laboured in that large and onerous charge till 1856. He was then chosen Professor of Church History and the Christian Evidences in Knox College. The duties of his office Dr. Burns discharged with his characteristic energy. Growing infirmities, however, of age, made it necessary for him to diminish his work somewhat. The Synod designated him *Emeritus* Professor, and he still continued to act as he could, indeed beyond what might have been expected. He ever took a deep interest in the college and the students, and now he has gone, will remain in their minds with grateful and venerating remembrance.

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## Gleanings.

LUCK AND LABOUR.—Many people complain of their bad luck when they ought to blame their own want of wisdom or exertion. Mr. Cobden, a distinguished writer in England, thus wrote about luck and labor:—

Luck is ever waiting for something to turn up.

Labour with keen eyes and strong will, will turn up something.

Luck lies in bed, and wishes the postman would bring news of a legacy.

Labor turns out at six o'clock, and, with busy pen, or ringing hammer, lays the foundation of a competence.

Luck whines.

Labour whistles.

Luck relies on chance.

Labour on character.

Luck slips down to indigence.

Labour looks up to independence.