

THE ECCLESIASTICAL AND MISSIONARY RECORD.

For the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

"Wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and the strength of salvation."

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NOTICES.

COLLECTION FOR FRENCH CANADIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The Synod have appointed that a Collection shall be made in all the Congregations and Missionary Stations within the bounds of the church, on Sabbath, the 3rd day of September next, for the French Canadian Missionary Society. This excellent Society is much hampered in its operations by a deficiency of funds; and it is hoped that the call now made by the Synod will be responded to, and that liberally, by all our congregations.

Our Collections to be remitted to JAMES COURT, Esquire, Montreal.

MINUTES OF SYNOD.

The Minutes of the last meeting of Synod are now passing through the press; one copy will be mailed, as soon as the work is finished, to each Minister whose name is on the Roll, and parcels of them will be forwarded to the gentlemen whose names are given below. It is requested that these gentlemen will take steps to send parcels to every several Congregation and Station within the bounds of their respective Presbyteries, and get one dollar for every 12 dozen copies, and remit the proceeds, without delay, to JOHN LAIDLAW, Esq., Toronto, Treasurer to the Synod Fund.

Agents for the Synod Minutes:

J. S. HOSACK, Esquire,	Quebec.
JOHN REURATH, Esq.,	Montreal.
Rev. ROBERT BOVD,	Prescott.
Rev. WILLIAM SMART,	Brockville.
JOHN DURIE, Esquire,	Bytown.
JAMES ALLAN, Esquire,	Pertch.
Mr. ANDREW MILNE,	Cobourg.
JOHN LAIDLAW, Esq.,	Toronto.
Mr. D. McLELLAN,	Bookseller, Hamilton.
JOHN FRASER, Esquire,	London.

What hath no good foundation will not hold up long; but that which is of duty, and of God, it is good to be zealously affected always.—P. Henry.

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Presbytery of Hamilton, will be held there, the second Wednesday of October, at 10 o'clock, a.m.

M. Y. STARK,
Presbytery Clerk.

A PRINCE AND A GREAT MAN FALLEN IN ISRAEL:

A SERMON PREACHED IN THE SCOTCH CHURCH, ST. GABRIEL STREET, MONTREAL, ON SABBATH, 27TH JUNE, 1847, AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF THE NEWS OF THE DEATH OF Dr. Chalmers; AND REPEATED, BY REQUEST, THE SAME EVENING, IN GOSFORD STREET CHURCH, BY WILLIAM LEISHMAN: 2 SAM., III. 34TH VERSE—LATTER CLAUSE—"Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?"

This world has not been without its princes and great men; but there have been none so potent as to withstand the attacks of that mortal enemy who is mightier than all sovereigns; and who, whether amid the carnage of battle-fields, or over the tombs of warriors, and kings, and mighty men, can say, as he has said, to all the world, on every successive victory which has laid the mightiest in the dust—"Know ye not that a prince and a great man has fallen?" Israel also had its princes, and its great men; but many generations have elapsed, and gone to the tomb of time; and over the grave of every one of them might have been spoken the very words which David uttered when he lamented the fall of Abner under the weapon of Joab. It is foreign to our present purpose to enter fully into the circumstances in which the words of our text were originally spoken. They certainly were very different from those in which we are now met together, and in which we now mean to apply them for our spiritual instruction. Abner was a mere politician and soldier, and Joab, beneath whose bloody stroke he fell, was but his rival in the same pursuits. Princes and great men, both of them might be in the secularities, and factions, and wars of Israel, as an earthly kingdom; but, in addition to their national and political peculiarities, which they possessed in common with other communities, the people of Israel enjoyed higher and more exclusive privileges as the favoured and chosen people of the Lord. And if we take the higher and the spiritual view of Israel, as a holy nation, and as the peculiar people of God, selected out of the other kingdoms of the world to be the depositaries and the propagators of the revelation of Divine truth; and if, in that glorious and pre-eminent sense, we find a champion and a master spirit contending for the loftier interests of a kingdom not of this world, shall we not say of him, as he is laid in the grave amid the universal lamentations of the church of Christ—"Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?"

It is precisely in such circumstances that we are at present placed. A man of foremost and most unspotted renown in the Christian world, has been unexpectedly and instantaneously called away, like the sun going down in the firmament, without a word of warning, or any sign in the heavens that the time of his setting was come. And thus it is that he, being dead, yet speaketh; and, by the solemnity and the suddenness of his removal, all who have heard of his name and his fame are yet once more addressed by an appeal from his sepulchre, if possible more impressive than any which

were ever uttered by his living voice. His departure has aroused, and startled, and solemnized all, not merely within the more immediate circle of his hallowed influence, but has extended to the farthest circles of the civilized world, to which the efforts of his lofty genius and his most beautiful Christianity have reached. Whether, therefore, we think of his character when living, his memory when gone, or the message which his life and death have proclaimed to the men of his own day and generation, as well as to others who shall follow, we certainly have sure grounds to say of this most illustrious, but most humble and most consistent servant of the Lord Jesus—"Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?"

I. First of all, then, let us contemplate his character while living; and we do say, from the very best means of knowledge, that he is truly described in these glowing words of holy Scripture, "He was a prince and a great man in Israel." From the first moment that a sense of his great worth became apparent to the age which he adorned, until the day when all who know him were called upon to mourn his loss, one stain was never found upon a character which displayed, in no ordinary degree, the simplicity which is in Christ. His natural endowments proclaimed him to belong to the highest order of minds, while his Christian attainments proclaimed him no less to be full of the grace and the truth of the gospel. And thus did the genius of the man, and the sanctification of the Holy Ghost, furnish out such a prince and a great man in Israel as has been but rarely seen. There was in his mind a combination of the highest and most opposite qualities. It was a rare combination to find in one individual, the graces of the loveliest poetry, and the exact demonstrations of the severest science. It is not wonderful, then, that almost every effort to which he put forth his powers was distinguished by extraordinary beauty and masculine vigour; and the unlettered peasant, and the accomplished scholar and man of science, were alike in turn captivated and won,—now, by the most guileless and artless simplicity, and again, by vast and unassailable demonstrations of profound and recondite truth. Nor was there in him any of the pomp or the pride of a conscious majesty above other men; for if ever among all the sons of Adam a living exemplification of the Saviour's gracious words and gracious work was to be found, "Except ye become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of Heaven," it was found in that prince and great man in Israel, over whom we mourn this day, because he has fallen. Those only who knew him intimately, and enjoyed the opportunity of witnessing and admiring the beauty and the graciousness of his domestic life, could fully understand his noble nature, and who, while they honoured him in the great work of his public usefulness, loved him with a sweeter affection as a husband, a father, a friend, and a brother, in the bonds of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Behold, then, the man largely endowed by nature, and still more largely and beneficially sanctified by Divine grace, possessing the greatest perfection of human accomplishments, and the greatest sympathy for human woes—his heart filled with the most fervent adoration and love for his Heavenly Master, and the most implicit confidence, and the humblest faith in the Saviour's finished work for the salvation of men—behold him going forth as the minister of Christ's reconciliation, with all these qualifications, to touch on the one hand the consciences of sinners, and to commend on the other the beauty