

THE LATE REV. JOHN BAIRD, M.A.

Of the many sudden deaths among the ministry, both at home and in this country, we have in this issue to notice with feelings of deepest sorrow that of the Rev. John Baird, M.A., of Port Stanley, which occurred with painful suddenness on the afternoon of Sabbath, 27th September last. Mr. Baird had gone in his usual health on the Thursday previous and conducted the fast-day services at Belmont; but after drinking a glass of water, he felt quite unwell. On reaching home his medical adviser applied remedies which restored him to comparative comfort. He kept his bed, however, till Sabbath morning, and, against the wishes of his friends, proceeded to the church and conducted the usual morning service.

Dr. Jennings of Toronto, an old friend, just happened to be visiting him, and in the afternoon they had scarcely sat down to tea when Mr. Baird, putting one hand to his chest, with the other removed his chair, and sank on the floor. In a few minutes, without uttering a word, all was over; from the service of the sanctuary below he was quickly summoned to the sanctuary above.

Mr. Baird was born in the parish of New Kilpatrick, Scotland, in 1820, and was thus in his 54th year. He was settled in Jedburgh, Scotland, June, 1843, and ministered to the United Presbyterian congregation there for many years. Removing to this country, he settled at Claremont, and ministered with much acceptance to the Presbyterians of Pickering. On account of failing health he resigned his charge, and after the leisure of a few years, accepted a call from the congregation of Port Stanley, where he remained till the day of his death. He was a superior preacher, scholarly, partial to linguistic studies, and an effective and accomplished debater in Church courts. The London Presbytery, out of respect to his memory, adjourned on Tuesday, 29th, and repaired to Port Stanley, where the funeral services were conducted by Revs. Dr. Jennings, Messrs. John Scott, George Simpson and George Cuthbertson. The body was conveyed by railway to Whitby, and thence to the Union Burying Ground, where it rests beside the ashes of his mother. We shall give in our next the minute passed by the London Presbytery in reference to the painful event. Meantime we close this notice sadly conscious that we shall seldom meet with one so amiable, so accomplished, so companionable as John Baird, gone for ever from us.

G. C.

THE LATE MR. JAMES MAIR.

The subject of this memoir requires more than a passing notice of his death. He belonged to a useful class of labourers, whose labours were abundantly blessed among our new settlements in the west. James Mair was born in the Island of Islay, in Scotland, March, 1808, and came to Canada in 1832. He had received in early life a good common school education, and had been trained in the way of true religion, but was then an utter stranger to the power of religion on his own heart. After his arrival in Canada, he resided a number of years in Fredericksburg, and under the preaching of Mr. Davies, a Reformed Presbyterian minister, he became thoroughly awakened to the importance of personal religion. He professed faith in Christ, united with the Church, and from that time forward religion became the chief concern of his life. In 1844 he moved into Nottawasaga, then a new settlement and fast filling up with a Highland population. He was appointed a catechist by the Free Church, and commenced his labours among his countrymen. Although he knew nothing of