

church where once there stood Dr. John Witherspoon, prior to his translation to the presidency of the College of New Jersey—the only clergyman whose name is on the Declaration of Independence.) Dr. Burns, senr., took the principal part in forming and conducting the Glasgow Colonial Society, which established Presbyterianism in old Canada, and sent out many Presbyterian ministers to the Maritime Provinces. He was sent out as delegate from the Free Church of Scotland to the American churches in 1844, and did much in organizing and extending the Free Church throughout the B.N.A. Provinces. He came out to Toronto, Ont., in 1845, and was pastor of Knox church there till 1856, when he became Professor of Church History and Apologetics in Knox College, then the only theological seminary of his Church. He was an extensive author and an indefatigable worker. His name in Western Canada, to whose extremities he had travelled as a missionary pioneer, is “familiar as household words,” and his memory fragrant. He died in old Knox College, Toronto, a fortnight after returning from an extended visit to Fatherland, on the 19th August, 1869, in the 80th year of his age. We may add that the uncle of the subject of our sketch was Dr. George Burns, the first Presbyterian minister in St. John, New Brunswick.

Our subject was educated principally at Paisley and the Glasgow University; came to Canada West in 1845; completed his education at Knox College, Toronto, and was ordained to the Christian ministry on the 1st of July, 1847. He was pastor for eight years of Chalmers’ church, Kingston, Ont., and Knox church, St. Catharines, same province, nearly twelve years (from July, 1855, to March, 1867). He then spent three full years in Chicago, as pastor of the Scotch Presbyterian church on the west side, and did a great deal to gather his countrymen together, and strengthen that religious interest. In that city, as in other cities where he has held pastorates, Dr. Burns was very assiduous in the discharge of his duties, and did no inconsiderable work outside his own church and denomination. From 1867 to 1870, with a number of other noble-hearted clergymen of Chicago, he co-operated with Mr. Moody in carrying forward mission-work in that city.

In May, 1870, Dr. Burns was called to Montreal to take charge of what is now known as Crescent street Presbyterian church, remaining there until March, 1875, when he was settled over his present charge, already mentioned, in Halifax. Here he has a very strong church, including in its membership quite a number of the leading men and leading *minds* of the city.

While at St. Catharines, our subject did some commendable work on the Grammar-school, Board of that city; and the year before he left there (1866), Hamilton College, Clinton, N. Y., conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity—an honor most worthily bestowed, for the doctor is a man of broad scholarship and fine culture, and an able lecturer and writer.

Since the Union of the Presbyterian Churches in Canada in June, 1875, he has been Chairman of the Board of Managers of the Presbyterian College of the Lower Provinces, and has annually, for the last three years, given special courses of lectures before the students of that institution; and though not a professional literary lecturer, he has been accustomed, for years, to speak occasionally before literary and scientific societies. He has not had a little to do in starting and prosecuting the \$100,000 scheme for endowing the theological college.

Dr. Burns is the author of a number of books and pamphlets. His life of his father, a volume of 460 pages, first issued in 1872, has already passed through three editions.

He wrote in conjunction with another gentleman a little volume entitled, “Maple Leaves from Canada for the grave of Abraham Lincoln.”