

full-freighted with hope and zeal, has been wrecked on the sands and breakers that mar the unity of the Christian Church. May the good *Pilot* guard us and our children from all such dangers!

From the remembrance of the past year's mercies let us then as a Church and as individuals take courage and trim our lamps and go forward into the future, till we greet the Bridegroom who is hastening to meet us with all swiftness of time.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF REV. G. N. GORDON.

THE leading facts of our lamented missionary's brief career are fresh in the memory of the Church; his name needs no monument, his character no eulogy; but it will not be amiss to devote a few pages of the *Record* to a short sketch of his life and labours—that writer and readers together may indulge without blame a pleasing pain and enjoy the benefit of contemplating the heroic self-devotion and the glorious death of an earnest follower of our blessed Redeemer.

GEORGE NICHOL GORDON was the fourth son of Mr. John Gordon, of Cascumpec, Prince Edward Island. He was born on the 21st July, 1822. His parents being firm and honest Scottish Presbyterians and consistent Christians, George and the other children were from the first dawn of intellect trained up in the fear of God and taught to love and study his word. The Schools of Cascumpec were wretched, as most of the remote country schools were a quarter of a century ago, and the early education of Mr. Gordon was meagre enough; but indomitable perseverance compensated in a large degree for the lack of those facilities which are now within the reach of the rising generation.

Till the twenty-second year of his age he laboured on his father's farm. He then procured a farm for himself and worked on it diligently for four or five years. In the meantime his religious impressions, which were marked and strong from his boyhood, deepened into burning earnestness, and he could not content himself without doing something for his Saviour. No sooner was his house erected than he opened it for social prayer meetings; and on week evenings, winter and summer, when the toil of the day was over, he would there, with congenial spirits, pour forth his heart to his God; and he frequently held similar meetings in the houses of such of his neighbours as would welcome his presence in his Master's name.

Finding his strength insufficient for the heavy labours of a new farm, he was induced to try School teaching. He was but a few months at this work when the Committee of the Charlottetown Bible Society engaged him as a colporteur. This was congenial work, and he undertook it with alacrity and performed all the duties of a home missionary and Bible distributor with characteristic heartiness, zeal and energy. While thus employed he attracted the attention of Captain Orlebar and Lieutenant Hancock, gentlemen who befriended him and of whom he always spoke in terms of high admiration. He spent the whole summer of 1850 in visiting the most destitute localities on the Island, forming Sabbath Schools, distributing tracts, holding religious meetings and, in many cases, instructing the ignorant from house to house. His labours were blessed, especially among the Roman Catholic population, for whose welfare and spiritual enlightenment he always entertained the deepest solicitude.