

committee before long and, what will be much better, to see some of the fruit of their efforts. Such a worthy object should not be allowed to fall through from a lack of sympathy. Were the alumni of the college to enter heartily into the scheme, the desired end would be gained in a very short time.

There is another suggestion we would make. In nearly every congregation there are less or more wealthy people who could very easily present the library with a volume or two every year. These books would not be missed by them and would add greatly to the value of the library.

Contributed and Selected Articles.

REV. ROBERT BURNS, D.D.

It is now upwards of fourteen years since the death of Dr. Burns occurred within the walls of old Knox College, in which he occupied the position of Professor of Apologetics and Church History. He had reached the patriarchal age of eighty years, having been born on the 13th February 1789, and died on the 19th August 1869. The greater part of his lengthened and laborious life was spent in Scotland: the last twenty-four years he spent in Canada—eleven years as pastor of Knox Church and thirteen as Professor in Knox College, Toronto. He was a native of Borrowstounness, usually called Boness, on the Frith of Forth. His father, Mr. John Burns, was Surveyor of Customs, and factor of one of the estates of the Duke of Hamilton. Of Mr. Burns' eight sons, four became ministers of the Established Church of Scotland. One was the Rev. James Burns, of Brechin; another was the Rev. William Burns, pastor of Kilsyth; another Dr. Geo. Burns of Corstorphine, and the fourth, the subject of this sketch.

Dr. Burns received his preliminary training in his native town. When less than thirteen years of age he commenced his college course in the University of Edinburgh, where the celebrated Dugald Stewart was one of his professors. At the age of sixteen

he entered the Divinity Hall; and in 1810 was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Edinburgh. Next year, on the 19th July, when scarcely twenty-two years of age, he was ordained to the charge of what was afterwards known as St. George's Church, Paisley, of which he continued pastor for thirty-two years, till the Disruption in 1843, when he cast in his lot with the Free Church of Scotland.

During his pastorate in Paisley, his labours were most abundant in preaching, visiting, catechising, and giving attention to the sick and poor. But besides the duties more immediately connected with his own large congregation, he performed an amount of work of other kinds, equivalent to the life-work of several ordinary men. He had a strong physical constitution, a great capacity for work, and wonderful versatility; and he was never idle. The productions of his pen, as author and editor, were numerous and varied. He wrote a life of Dr. Stevenson McGill, a treatise on Pluralities, a vindication of Establishments, and a large number of pamphlets, letters, sermons, and addresses on such subjects as the Apocrypha, Voluntaryism, the Episcopal Liturgy, the Eldership, the Support of the Poor, the Garelock Heresy, and Roman Catholic Emancipation. He edited the Edinburgh