

Quarterly. "The tenure of the Elder's Office," by Dr. McGill, of Princeton. Dr. McGill writes with great force of feeling as well as of logic. He feels deeply that the American Presbyterian Church has fallen away from the Scriptural mode of action, good sense, and traditions of the past, by leaving elders in the hands of the people. He says, "Truly this rotary system is a turning of things upside down!" A life-service they call "iron-clad tyranny;" but a life suspension of God's own officers, at the whim of the people, they call 'liberty' and 'progress!'" Dr. McGill holds that it cannot be shown that any act of the Scottish Assembly ever attempted or allowed any other kind of rotation than an alternate working and resting allowed as an arrangement among the elders themselves. He brands the authorities of those who maintain the opposite view favouring the rotary system as apocryphal and makes out a case that may well lead one to pause before committing himself to any new-fangled notions in regard to the eldership. The Review of Contemporary Literature and Theological and Literary Intelligence are interesting and valuable as usual.

LIFE AND TIMES OF THE REV. ROBERT BURNS, D. D., OF TORONTO, BY THE
REV. R. F. BURNS, D. D., MONTREAL. TORONTO: JAMES CAMPBELL
& SON, 1872.

The publishers have favoured us with advance sheets of about two hundred pages of this long expected and eagerly looked for book, including proof of the engraved portrait of the late Dr. Burns and the vignette of Knox College. The whole work is to contain about five hundred pages, and it is expected will appear shortly, when we hope to give a fuller and more careful review of its contents. Suffice to say for the present that the life of Dr. Burns will be the most interesting book that Canada has produced, without restricting the comparison to religious publications or biographical works. It begins in the most easy and inviting manner with the autobiographical reminiscences of the subject of the memoir, dating from 1794, the fifth year of his age. The first chapter treats of early days at Kinneil; the second of school days at Edinburgh, which are rather College days in the arts department; the third of theological education, including sketches of the many distinguished men with whom Dr. Burns was brought into contact. The Doctor's Paisley ministry forms the subject of the fourth chapter, and Church Courts and Societies that of the fifth; the sixth deals with his interest in foreign missions and the home poor; the seventh contains interesting accounts of his visits to Oxford and Cambridge; and the eighth launches the writer on the sea of authorship. How characteristic is the word "Controversies" as it stands at the head of the ninth chapter, and yet how true the statement of the biographer that these never interfered with private friendship! The ten years conflict, as a period including the greatest of all these, rightly takes up the tenth chapter. In the eleventh the small engraving of St. George's Church, Paisley, standing at the head of the previous chapters, gives place to a similar one of Knox Church, Toronto, for Canada is here first introduced in connection with the Glasgow Colonial Society. The Canadian part of the book thus promises to be the larger half, as it will be the most interesting to the many who have witnessed and heard of Dr. Burns' works of faith and labours of love in this country. The autobiographical part of the Memoir is supplemented with notes by Dr. R. F. Burns, who also writes the greater part of many chapters, and furnishes incidents and traits in his father's life and character, which the pen of a biographer alone can supply. The work of the biographer is performed with a loving hand and a facile pen, and throws the church at large under great obligations to him who has bestowed upon it the history of one who was alike its and his distinguished father. The typographical execution, paper and engravings are all that could be desired to make a book worthy in every respect to take its place in the library or on the drawing room table side by side with the best of British and American publications. We trust that the sale of the life of Dr. Burns will be as extensive as its merits, having no doubt that much good will result from its circulation among the ministers and people of our own and other churches at home and abroad.