

DEATH OF REV. GEORGE WALKER.

New Glasgow was on Feb. 2nd somewhat surprised by the intelligence, that the Rev. George Walker was no more. — Though he had some time ago retired from the active work of the ministry, yet he still went out and in among us in a hale old age, and his last illness was so short, that the event came upon many with startling suddenness. His long residence among us, he being by many years the senior clergyman; and his close identification during that time with every movement in our midst, connected with the moral or spiritual progress of the community, his many personal excellencies, and, with many, the tender affection that had been induced by his ministrations, caused the word to be received with unusual sorrow. We are persuaded also, that far beyond, through the county and elsewhere, where his voice was often heard proclaiming the gospel of salvation, and where he had made many personal friends, feelings will be deeply touched by the intelligence.

Mr. Walker was a native of Greenock, Scotland, being born on the 15th of September, 1804, so that he was in his 80th year. His parents belonged to the United Secession Church of Scotland; and from them he received a pious training. He entered the University of Glasgow, at the age of seventeen; and having passed through the regular curriculum of study, he entered the Theological Hall of that body, which was then under the charge of the late Drs. Dick and Mitchell. — While he was in attendance, the former died, when the Hall was remodelled; and the Revs. Drs. Balmer, Brown and Duncan were added to the professorial staff, and under them he completed his course. At this period of his life, he taught school for some time, particularly at Airth and Kirkintilloch. For this work he was particularly adapted, and in it he was successful; many pupils in after life expressing their grateful remembrance of the benefits derived from

his instructions. This seems to have delayed him in his theological course, for he was not licensed till March 1837, when he was thirty-three years of age. In the following year, he was ordained at Muirkirk, an upland country district of Ayrshire, over what was in reality a mission field. Here he labored for three years and a half, when he received call to the congregation of Johnshaven, a small fishing village on the east coast of Scotland. Here he labored diligently and faithfully and with much acceptance among the people of this charge, till the beginning of the year 1848, when in consequence of urgent solicitations from this Province, he tendered his services; and being accepted, he arrived in Pictou with his family in May of that year. Very soon after, he was called to be pastor of the congregation, afterward known as Primitive Church, which had then been recently organized, and was worshipping in the old Temperance Hall.

Having accepted their call, he was inducted in August, and entered upon his labours with great energy and zeal. Under his ministry the congregation made continuous and steady progress. Their first church had to be enlarged, and soon after was burned; when a union was effected between it and Knox Church, and he became minister of the united congregation. This position he continued to hold till the year 1878, when feeling the infirmities of increasing age, he resigned the active work of the ministry, retaining the position of pastor emeritus, while the Rev. E. Scott was called, and inducted to the responsible work of the pastorate. He however still enjoyed comparatively good health; and he continued to the last to perform such ministerial work as his strength permitted; visiting the afflicted, teaching the young, and occasionally preaching. Only the second Sabbath before his death, he preached with much of his old vigour. His last illness was short, and did not involve much suffering, death being as much from exhausted nature as from disease. He was conscious to the last; his mind being full of the peace of the gospel; and he passed away without a struggle.