

ripe, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come." The great husbandman is never deceived or mistaken about this thing. He knows the exact time when to gather in the fruit. He knows when His own have been exposed long enough to the noonday heat and the midnight chill. Whenever the fruit is ripe, He will leave it no longer in this ungenial clime, but immediately He putteth in the sickle, and gathers it lovingly to Himself. After all it is we who are mistaken about this thing, and not He the proprietor of the field. But while we say all has been right and well, we would remember with a tender sympathy the sorrowing widow, and the fatherless children : and we would hear the voice which calls aloud to us all, warning us to "be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

ALMONTE, April, 1873.

WM. McK.

THE LATE MR. ROBERT SMITH.

Another of the old settlers of this district has gone to his rest after a long and somewhat chequered life.

Mr. Robt. Smith, of whom we write, was born on the borders of Scotland and England, and spent part of his early days in the neighborhood of Coldstream, under the ministry of Rev. Andrew Thompson. During a period of over 10 years, he served the British Government in the Royal Marines, from which he was discharged, because wounded in the battle of Java. A providential interposition by which his life was saved, had no small influence in leading to a change in his eventful life and ultimately to decision on matters of religion. Early settled in the Bathurst district, he was associated with the history of Presbyterianism from the first minister's settlement. He was connected with the Church of Scotland, under the Rev. T. C. Wilson; he was much interested in and often spake of the revival under that minister. With many others he cast in his lot with the Free Church at the disruption, and remained till his death in connexion with Knox Church, Perth. During the latter years of his life he was in some measure deprived of the enjoyment of the service of God's house, by loss of sight and hearing; but a retentive memory of former reading afforded an abundance of matter for meditation. His death took place at the residence of his son-in-law, D. McDonald, from whence the remains of Mrs. Smith had been borne less than a year before. His confident expression was: "I know whom I have believed."—*Communicated.*

The number of clergymen : The Church of Ireland has considerably fallen off since the passing of the Disestablishment Act. In 1869 there were 2,380 clergymen; but according to the "Clerical Directory" just published, there are now only 1974.

The Rev. Dr. Angus, speaking at Sheffield on a recent occasion, stated that the work of revising the New Testament would be completed in seven years, and the Old Testament in twelve years, if the committee continued, as at present, to devote forty days a-year to the work. The Americans had also appointed two committees, to whom the English work was referred for suggestion.

Princeton College, since Dr. McCosh was installed the President, has received enormous endowments from private beneficence, notably from Mr. Green, a China merchant, who gives £120,000, and as might be expected, the number of students has gone up from 250 to 400.