

satisfied with the decision of the congregation, counselled delay for a short time longer, stating as a reason that a few respected members would be offended and further that in a short time there was every probability that there would be a new pastor either as colleague or successor, that no doubt the congregation would take a fresh start and become stronger and more flourishing than ever, then, said he, will be your time to introduce the organ and make any other changes that might be deemed desirable.

In view of what happened so soon afterwards, how like prophecy that proved, for in October of the same year, he was suddenly called to his reward, after 21 years most conscientious and faithful ministry in this congregation. He was revered and respected by the whole Church as well as by his own congregation and will be long remembered for his active exertions in promoting the unions of the various Presbyterian bodies throughout the Dominion, happily consummated in 1875 resulting in the strong and vigorous Presbyterian Church in Canada and of which Knox forms no unimportant member.

Within six months a call was extended to our present esteemed pastor, who was then in Buffalo, N.Y. He responded to the call and was inducted into the charge on April 15th, 1880. The congregation, which from various causes had become somewhat scattered, at once rallied and increased in numbers greatly, the church was full to overflowing, in 1881 the building inside was re-modelled and re-seated and an organ put in without a word of protest, and were the congregation to be asked to-day to vote, it is doubtful if even one person would be found who would say turn out the organ and let us go back to the old way of having the Precentor in the box under the pulpit, even old Conservative members who were at the time conscientiously opposed to the introduction and use of the organ have since declared that they would not now like to be without it.

Of the progress of the congregation since our present pastor came to us in 1880, now 15 years ago, you are all cognizant and it does not become us to say much seeing he is with us to-night, able and willing to do good work for the congregation and for the Master whom it is his delight to serve and honor.

The congregation has done much in the way of hiring and starting others in the city, notably West church and Charles St., now Westminster, both large and flourishing and its influence is felt all over the country and even in other lands.

In this short and imperfect sketch of Knox church, after fifty years, reference has been made chiefly to the material progress of the congregation, who can estimate the spiritual results or the value and importance to the community of the faithful preaching of the Gospel and witnessing for Christ on this ground for nearly three quarters of a century, for although this is the Semi-Centennial of the congregation under its present name, the Gospel has been proclaimed from this very site for over seventy-four years, a site granted free by the warm hearted generous do. or, the late Jesse Vetchum, a tablet commemorating whose noble gift is to be seen

in the front vestibule of the church, and which with others erected in the same place so narrowly escaped destruction in the late fire which so nearly destroyed the building on Sabbath morning, March 3rd, and which needs no description here. Many of us saw it and



REV. DR. TOPP.

will never forget the sight of the beautiful spire blazing up towards the heavens to which it had been silently pointing for nearly half a century. The Bell also, which in its sweet tones called us to the House of God will be heard no more, it having perished in the fire with the spire and tower. By God's good providence, this the oldest Presbyterian church in the city was saved from the destruction which threatened to lay it low. In this building some notable meetings have been held. Here, Mr. Moody of world-wide fame was first heard by many of us on his first visit to our city. Here, were also heard the first of the Pan-Presbyterian Council meetings and others of great importance. Many besides Knox congregation, since the fire have been giving thanks to God that our Church is still spared to us.

During the seventy-four years of which mention has been made, only four pastors have ministered here. No mean record, surely! And when we look back over all the way by which God has led His people here these many years, may we not close this sketch with the words of the 115th Psalm,

"The Lord of us hath mindful been
And He will bless us still."



REV. WM. BURNS.



MR. WILLIAM GALBRAITH.

A few facts regarding Mr. William Galbraith, writer of the preceding article, and an old office-bearer of Knox Church will be interesting to many of our readers. He was born in Dunbarton, Scotland, in 1832. His ancestors for several generations were millers, and he received his education in Renfrewshire at the Neilston parish