

DEATH OF THE HON. JAMES FERRIER.

NO more conspicuous figure among the laity of Canadian Methodism has passed away than the late James Ferrier. Few men have so well and so faithfully served their generation. He was a fine type of Christian manhood and of Canadian patriotism. His life was co-eval with the century, and he died full of years and full of honours, surrounded by "love, obedience, troops of friends," all that could make life happy. Never have we known a man who preserved to the verge of his ninetieth year to so large a degree his mental and physical energy and vivacity. Few men of half his age will be more missed from the busy activities of public and private, secular and religious life. He came of sturdy Scottish stock, which may have had much to do with his vigour, both of body and mind. Born and educated in the ancient "Kingdom of Fife." He came to Montreal in his twenty-first year. Though brought up a Presbyterian he soon, from conviction, identified himself with the early struggles of Methodism in that city. His business energy brought with it deserved success and he soon became prominent in commercial circles. Always public spirited, in 1841 he became a member of the corporation of the city, and in 1847 was elected mayor—a fact of much significance, when it is remembered what antipathy a Protestant, and especially a Methodist, was regarded by the mass of Roman Catholic voters who constituted the great majority. Mr. Ferrier received about every office which the confidence of his fellow-citizens, or the favour of his Sovereign could bestow. The following is a partial list of his official positions:

He was Colonel of the First Battalion of Montreal Militia; Member of the Board of the Royal Institution for the Advancement of Learning (McGill University), in 1845; President of St. Andrew's Society, and

life member of the Legislative Council of Canada in 1847, and for many years a Senator of the Dominion; President of the Montreal and Lachine Railway; Chairman of the Grand Trunk Railway, and a Director of the International Bridge Company; called to the Legislative Council of Quebec in 1867, and since that year has been a member of the Council of Victoria College, Cobourg. He was Chancellor of McGill College, Manager of the Montreal Assurance Company, Vice-President of the Sabbath school Association of Canada; one of the controlling spirits of the Bank of British North America in 1837; President of the Bible Society; President of the Quebec Temperance League. He filled every position of trust and honour that was possible in the Church, to which he devoted the best energies of his life. He was for many year Superintendent of St. James' Street Methodist Church Sunday-school; a member of the Senate of Victoria University, and Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Wesleyan Theological College, of Montreal, for the furtherance of which he erected the James Ferrier Convocation Hall, in 1883, at his own expense.

He laid the foundation stone of the great St. James' Street Church forty years ago, and by his tireless energy greatly promoted its welfare during the two score years which have since elapsed. About a year ago he laid the foundation of the new church which is to take its place, and the very day before the closing services of the old church took place, devout men bore him to his burial from those sacred walls, within which he had so often worshipped. It was enough. He was ready to say his "Nunc dimittis," for his eyes had seen the salvation of God.

We hope to have, at an early date, a worthier tribute to his memory from friends who knew him long and well.