

esteem for his Christian character, and high appreciation of his many years' faithful and valuable official labours.

It is their earnest prayer that he may be conveyed in safety to the land of his adoption, and there enjoy abundant and manifest tokens of the divine favor. May he be long spared to benefit Society there with the gifts and graces with which he has benefited society here!

They humbly hope that, though they may never any more be permitted personal communion in this present world, they may meet once more, and forever, in the General Assembly and Church of the First-born in "Heavenly places."

Signed in name, and by appointment of the Session.

ROBERT CAMERON, Moderator.

JOHN GRAY, Session Clerk.

For the last ten years he was an Elder in Poplar Grove Church; and the esteem and affection with which he was regarded, when chosen to the office, increased till the day of his removal. *He was a model Elder.* He magnified his office. When his district was visited by the Pastor, he was by his side doing his full share of the work, and everywhere welcome. The sick will never forget his regular, affectionate, prayerful, cheerful calls, from week to week; his methodical arrangements enabling him to accomplish a great deal of work. In prayer-meeting he was always present, (save when he remained in the Institution that his son might attend,) and he was always ready to contribute his prayer or remark to the edification of the meeting. In Session, of which he was clerk, he was judicious, firm, yet very tender and charitable; and on a sacramental Sabbath he was peculiarly in his element, solemn, serene, joyful; so that whether we call to remembrance his venerable appearance or his public or private work, we know that, without exception, his associates in office and the church will endorse our statement that "he was a model Elder."

HIS CHARACTER.

What we have said reveals his character to some extent. It shows that he was "a faithful man, and feared God above many." He was one of those who "followed the Lord fully." As a man, he was sound in judgment, independent in thought, upright in character, decided in his opinions, and true to his convictions. As a Christian, he was guileless and unworldly; he was warm—yea, ardent, and withal, Catholic and charitable. More than all, *he walked with God, and walked lovingly and joyfully.*—He had a clear, strong, realizing, unfaltering faith, which made him ever cheerful, hopeful, and happy. Amid successive bereavements, (for he had buried nine chil-

dren out of twelve, whom the Lord gave him,) he was sustained because his faith in God never failed. His latest exercise in Poplar Grove prayer-meeting was characteristic, and a fitting close to his work. He spoke from the words, "Rejoice in the Lord; and again, I say, rejoice!" All heard with pleasure and profit,—not a few spoke of the address on their homeward walk,—but none thought they were to hear his voice no more, and that he was so soon to enter into the joy of his Lord.

But so it was. On the next Lord's day he was sick, and his son was ordained an Elder. During the week the Elder of forty years was called home; and seldom has any congregation more deeply mourned over an Elder's death. The Session ordered a suitable statement to be entered on their records, expressive of their appreciation of his character and usefulness, and of their deep sympathy with Mrs. Hutton and family in their bereavement.

Other Missions.

The Christian Movement in Madagascar.

Dr. DAVIDSON has sent a letter from Madagascar to Dr. Burns Thomson, of the Edinburgh Medical Mission, giving some interesting details of the state of matters in Madagascar, where he occupies a most important position at Court. The letter is dated November. Dr. Davidson says:—"The whole of Imerina is now nominally Christian. I have already informed you of the burning of the idols, and the great spread of Christianity. Since I wrote the change has been going on. Churches by the hundred have been erected, and religious services established. This church-building and church-going is partly spontaneous, and partly the result of a fear among the people that neglect in these respects would offend the Government. In many districts the people are ignorant of even the rudimentary notions of Christianity, and meet, Quaker-like, in silence, and depart without any worship; but they are, as a rule, anxious to receive instruction, but the means of meeting an emergency so sudden and unexpected are totally inadequate. The older churches, where there are numbers of trained and trusted members, exerted themselves in the work of evangelisation. The numbers sent, however, were far from meeting the necessities of the country districts. The result of negotiations has been that the various churches in the capital have collected money, and have chosen men to be sent to