

OBITUARY.

a thousand feet. The water of the Jordan was sweet to within a few hundred yards of its mouth.—The waters of the Sea were devoid of smell, but bitter, salt and nauseous. Upon entering it, the boats were encountered by a gale; and “it seemed as if the bows, so dense was the water, were encountering the sledge-hammers of the Titans, instead of the opposing waves of an angry sea.” The party proceeded daily with their explorations, making topographical sketches as they went, until they reached the Southern extremity of the Sea, where the most wonderful sight that they had yet seen awaited them. “In passing the mountain of Uzdom (Sodom) we unexpectedly and much to our astonishment,” says Lieut. Lynch, “saw a large rounded, turret-shaped column, facing S. E., which proved to be of solid rock-salt, capped with carbonate of lime, one mass of crystallization. Mr. Dale took a sketch of it, and Dr. Anderson and I landed with much difficulty, and procured specimens from it.” The party circumnavigated the lake, returned to their place of departure, and brought back their boats in as complete order as they received them at New York. They were all in fine health. Thanks to the good management of Lieut. Lynch, the whole cost of this scientific exploration of the Dead Sea was but seven hundred dollars. From the letters of Lieut. Lynch, quoted by Lieut. Maury, we transcribe the following interesting facts elicited by exploration:—“The bottom of the Northern half of this Sea is almost an entire plain. Its meridional lines at a short distance from the shore scarcely vary in depth, the deepest soundings thus far 189 fathoms (1128 f.-et). Near the shore the bottom is generally an incrustation of salt, but the intermediate one is soft mud, with many rectangular crystals, mostly cubes, of pure salt. At one time Stellwager’s lead brought up nothing but crystals. The Southern half of the Sea is as shallow as the Northern one is deep, and for about one fourth of its entire length the depth does not exceed three fathoms (18 feet). Its Southern bed has presented no crystals, but the shores are lined with incrustations of salt, and when we landed at Uzdom, in the space of an hour, our foot-prints were coated with crystallization. The opposite shores of the peninsula and the West coast present evident marks of disruption. There are unquestionably birds and insects upon the shores, and ducks are sometimes upon the Sea, for we have seen them, but cannot detect any living thing within it, although the salt streams flowing into it contain fish. I feel sure that the results of this survey will fully illustrate the Scriptural account of the ‘Cities of the Plain.’” He thus speaks of the Jordan:—“The Jordan, although rapid and impetuous, is graceful in its windings and fringed with luxuriance, while its waters are sweet, clear, cool and refreshing.” After the survey of the Sea the party proceeded to determine the height of mountains on its shores, and to run levels thence via Jerusalem to the Mediterranean. They found the summit of the West bank of the Dead Sea more than one thousand feet above its surface, and very nearly on a level with the Mediterranean. “It is a curious fact,” says Lieutenant Maury, “that the distance from the top to the bottom of the Dead Sea measures the height of its banks, the elevation of the Mediterranean, and the difference of level between the bottom of the two seas, and that the depth of the Dead Sea is also an exact multiple of the height of Jerusalem above it.”—Another not less singular fact, in the opinion of Lieut. Lynch, is that the bottom of the Dead Sea forms two submerged plains, an elevated and a depressed one—the first, its southern part, of slimy mud covered by a shallow bay; the last, its northern and largest portion, of mud and incrustations and rectangular crystals of salt at a great depth, with a narrow ravine running through it, corresponding with the bed of the river Jordan at one extremity and the Wady ‘el Jeib,’ or wady within a wady, at the other. “The slimy ooze, says Lieut. Maury, “upon that plain at the bottom of the Dead Sea, will not fail to remind the sacred historian of the ‘slime pits’ in the vale, where joined in battle ‘four kings with five.’”—[Richmond Republican.]

At the residence of his eldest son, Mr. Duncan M'Dougal, Charlottenburgh, U. C., on the 19th November, Mr. John M'Dougal, a U. E. Loyalist, at the venerable age of 98. He was a native of Carrimony, in the parish of Urquhart, Inverness-shire, from which he emigrated in 1773, and settled at Little White Creek, in the State of New York. Upon the breaking out of the Revolutionary War, after receiving much ill-usage at the hands of the insurgents, as he rejected every inducement to unite with them, he managed to join General Burgoyne’s army, and acted with it till it surrendered at Saratoga in October 1777. On recovering his liberty he joined the 84th Regiment, in which he served till he was regularly discharged at Montreal, in 1779. In 1780 he removed to Coteau du Lac, and in 1784 to the front of Lancaster, where he resided till within a few months of his death, respected and esteemed by all who knew him. In 1790 he was ordained an Elder of the first Presbyterian Congregation in connexion with the Church of Scotland formed in Upper Canada, under the charge of the late Reverend John Bethune, and, like his brother Elders appointed at the same time, and now all gone to the “house appointed for all living,” adorned the office by a life and conversation becoming the Gospel. At the period of his death he was the senior Elder of the Church in Canada, and probably in British North America.

Died, at 27 Causeyside, Paisley, on the 30th Oct., Catherine Reid, widow of James Durie, aged 96 years. Mrs. Durie was born in the parish of Drymen, in 1752, and was baptized by the father of the Very Reverend Principal Macfarlane. At an early age she exhibited evidences of piety, and when about sixteen became a communicant, so that she has been a full member of the Church during the long period of eighty years. Before coming to Paisley she resided in Kilpatrick; on leaving which, in 1781, she took up her abode in the Laigh parish, and continued in the same to the date of her death. Her vigorous faith and sterling integrity are attested by the minister of St. George’s; to whom also her resignation and thankfulness in the midst of bodily weakness, and her edifying conversation and cheerful hope in the prospect of dissolution, afforded no small measure of satisfaction and delight. The deceased had a distinct recollection of sermons which she heard when only eight years of age. Her reading in the old divines was extensive; and she has been heard to remark in reference to recent events, that, if the present generation had kept by the old authors, there would have been fewer changes in the world. Lately, when asked about the state of her health, her reply was characteristic:—“I have much reason to be grateful—I am treading soft paths of affliction.” She lived the life of the righteous, and her latter end was peace.—[Renfrewshire Advertiser.]

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