

zeal he performed an immense amount of mission work throughout the whole of Canada. More than once he visited the Lower Provinces; once at least he went to Newfoundland; while there were very few regions in Canada, east or west, however difficult of access, which he did not visit some time or other, and in which he did not seek to scatter the good seed of the Kingdom. His advancing years scarcely lessened the amount of his travelling and preaching. Not only were the summer months devoted to visits to mission stations and destitute localities, but even in winter he set apart the New Year holidays for what he called his "sleigh mission," and devoted many Sabbaths beside to the same object. And we know well that these visits have been abundantly blessed, in refreshing and encouraging the hearts of the people, and giving a stimulus to their efforts in the cause of the Gospel.

Dr. Burns had many qualifications which fitted him for taking a prominent position among his contemporaries, and for being a standard-bearer in the conflicts which the revival of evangelical principles and the progress of social reforms brought about in his day. His natural endowments were of a superior order. His reading was varied and extensive, while a memory singularly retentive and ready enabled him to have at command the results of his reading. His style was clear, manly and vigorous. His principles were not taken up just to suit the times, but were conscientiously held, and freely and fearlessly expressed. His energy was untiring. As a preacher he was evangelical, impressive, and often powerful. His discourses were full of sound theology, enriched by apt illustrations, and even to his latest years were delivered with remarkable energy. In 1828, in acknowledgment of his theological learning and labours, he received from the University of Glasgow the degree of D.D. He was elected Fellow of the Royal Society, and was also a member of the Antiquarian, and of other learned societies.

Our revered father held, on most points, too decided opinions, and had too great force of character, not to come occasionally into collision with others, sometimes with those who generally were to be found on the same side with himself. But even those opposed to him respected his thorough integrity of purpose, and his outspoken honesty. There was a heartiness about him which even opponents could not but like. It is pleasing to add that his last years were full of peace and tranquillity. He had to a considerable extent withdrawn from the arena of public discussion. His character was more and more softened and chastened. Some personal misunderstandings were removed; and we believe we only state the truth when we say that, before his removal from us, there was not one who did not cherish towards him feelings, not only of high respect, but of warm affection.

In private life Dr. Burns was genial and loving. His powers of conversation were remarkable. It was impossible to weary of his company, or even in it. To the students under his charge he was peculiarly kind and attentive. He manifested a warm interest in their studies, and in everything affecting them; and of those who were settled in pastoral charges, there were few whom he did not visit and encourage by his presence, his counsels, and his ministerial services. His liberality and unselfishness in regard to money matters were remarkable. One instance of this may be mentioned. A few years ago the Doctor received a handsome sum of money from one of the city congregations of Toronto, for whose benefit his services had been for some time generously given. No sooner had he