

## DEATH OF REV. R. S. PATTERSON.

On Friday, Sep. 15th the Rev. Robert Patterson of Bedeque, P. E. I., was called to his rest and reward.

Mr. Patterson was born in Pictou in the end of last century, within three weeks of its close, on Dec. 6th 1880. He received his education in the Arts in Pictou Academy from Dr. Thomas McCulloch. He then went to Glasgow, where he prosecuted his Theological studies, receiving also from the Glasgow University the degree of Master of Arts. He was licensed to preach the gospel in 1824, called to Bedeque, P. E. I. in 1825. And ordained into the pastoral charge of that congregation on the 22nd of March 1826, where he labored diligently and faithfully until his death, a pastorate of over fifty-six years in the one congregation.

Mr. Patterson was one of the first of Nova Scotia's sons to devote himself to the work of the ministry in his native land. He with Messrs Murdoch, McLean and McGillivray were the first four. They were licensed in 1824. The other three finished their work years ago, and for a length of time Mr. Patterson has been the only living link in the ministry between the present and that early period of our church's history.

We cannot but think of the changes that have taken place in the church during his long ministry. When he was settled in Bedeque, Dr. Geddie, who was afterward to awaken our church to the work of Foreign Missions, who was to be not only the pioneer Missionary of our own church, but the first Foreign Missionary sent out from any British Colony to the heathen, was a little boy of eleven.

As we think of Dr. Geddie growing to manhood, entering the ministry, agitating the church on Missions and then going forth so long since to the South Seas. As we think of our Mission work, with its story of labor and suffering, that is now passed into history, its pioneer long since at a good age called to rest, and think

that when our Foreign Mission work began Mr. Patterson had been already twenty years pastor of the congregation of Bedeque, we begin to realize something of the length of his ministry. As we measure it by other landmarks the distance does not seem lessened. At his ordination, the ten years conflict in the Church of Scotland which ended in the Disruption was still buried seven years deep in futurity, and had he served a ministry of seventeen years when the Free Church of Scotland began its career.

He labored long and faithfully, and having served successive generations by the will of God he has fallen asleep, and been laid unto his fathers.

## DEATH OF THE REV. JOHN C. MECK.

The most of the readers of the Maritime Presbyterian will have read or heard, before this obituary reaches them, of the sudden, melancholy, and unexpected death of Rev. John C. Meek, of Springside, UpperStewiacke. He died on the evening of Sep. 1st., after a brief but severe illness and after just completing Aug. 30th., the 43rd year of his age. It is now generally admitted, I think, by those who are competent to judge, and who have acquainted themselves with the facts of the case, that he died of hydrophobia, a most fatal, painful and distressing malady.

When or where or under what circumstances he contracted the disease has not yet been ascertained with certainty. This much, however, we have learned from his relatives and friends, that he was bitten some years ago by a cross dog. But whether the dog was rabid at the time or whether he anticipated any dangerous results from the bite, we have not been able to ascertain. He was too far gone to give any information in the matter, before the doctors allowed themselves to believe that it was really hydrophobia which was preying upon his system. It is no secret that Mr. Meek was remarkably timid in the presence of a strange dog and his friends have observed that this feeling of timidity has been gradually growing upon him during the past year. Seldom did he leave home, during the past summer without putting a stone or stones in his carriage to protect his horse, as he said, from dogs. No