

## REV. JOHN TAYLOR, D.D., M.D.

The departure of Dr. Taylor, who for the last nine years has been Professor of Divinity to the United Presbyterian Church in Canada, and Editor of this *Magazine* from its commencement, is a positive and large loss to the Church in this Province. His vast and varied acquirements, the clearness of his mental perception, and his inflexible moral honesty, place him in the front rank of biblical interpreters and theological instructors. In the department of sacred hermeneutics we have no hesitation in saying that he stood alone in Canada. The favoured people of his charge and those privileged to prosecute their theological studies under his tutorage, can gratefully tell with what singular fidelity and efficiency he discharged his pastoral and professorial duties. As a theological teacher he laudably discarded dogmatism in regard to all matters not clearly revealed. Nor did he dwarf or trammel the minds of his students by pressing them into a sectarian mould and wedging them in with human dicta, which is not unfrequently done with ruinous success in certain schools of the prophets. By precept, and example as well, he sought to induce a reverent, but free and full investigation of the Sacred Oracles. To him it seemed enough if the head and heart were ever ready humbly to bow to the enunciation "Thus saith the Lord." The Church owes him a debt for training in whole or in part a number of her ablest and most acceptable ministers, and that too under circumstances, in several respects, any thing but favorable. His sojourn in Canada has been of marked advantage to the Church, though, as we opine, not very fruitful of happiness to himself. The reasons why need not here or now be rehearsed. He secured and retained the high esteem of many—of all who knew him best, and never, we firmly believe, gave just cause to any man to be his enemy.

The chief thing in the shape of fault we ever heard attributed to Dr. Taylor, was his shrinking and retiring disposition,—his want of forwardness in not thrusting himself on public notice, as his talents and attainments warranted, and his position was supposed to demand;—in short, that modesty in him was a crime, which in most men is very properly deemed a virtue. Certain it is, that many a man, with only a moiety of his acumen and acquirements, would speedily command public attention, and render himself famous, by ascending every accessible platform, and there spreading sail and, sailor like, whistling to awaken the breeze of popular applause. It would simply be an impossibility for Dr. Taylor to act thus, or in any way, even seemingly, to seek notoriety. His sensitive mental constitution, as well as his principles, would imperatively forbid. But whenever duty called for his services within the legitimate sphere of his office, he was ever ready and prompt to comply; and he invariably discharged that duty well. As an accomplished scholar and a thoroughly furnished theologian, it is to be feared we shall not soon "look on his like again." He leaves Canada followed by the