

friends and appeared to be in better health than was usual with him of late. During the week he was quite vigorous and able to move about, visiting a number of his friends and neighbours, whom he had not seen for some time before. On Monday, the 30th June, he was in his ordinary state of health; between nine and ten o'clock, P. M., he went out and told his son that the Synod had settled the marriage question satisfactorily. At 10 o'clock he went to bed as usual, but awoke and got up between 11 and 12 o'clock, when he sat down at the fireside for a short time, gasping for want of breath, after which he was conveyed back to bed by his wife and son, and being in bed for a few minutes quite conscious that his end was near at hand, he turned his face to the wall as if to pray, and breathed his last a little before one o'clock in the morning of Tuesday the first day of July, 1873, being upwards of 68 years of age. The immortal spirit took his departure to the eternal world.

The want of his bodily presence is felt by the whole congregation, and by none more than by the writer, who feels somewhat like Elisha, after Elijah was taken from him, when he cried out, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and the horsemen thereof," or like Alexander Peden when he sat down wearied and mournful at Cameron's grave, and exclaimed, "Oh! to be with thee, Ritchie!" The members of the Church of Christ at Blue Mountain may adopt the words of King David upon the death of Abner, "Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel." There is no other single person in that congregation whose death would have been so universally felt as causing such a great and extensive blank in the Christian community of that place. This was clearly seen on the day of his funeral, for not only did the whole congregation gather together, but many also came from the neighbouring congregations, from New Glasgow, McLellan's Mountain, East River, Barney's River, and from St. Mary's. There was a large concourse of people; it was supposed that nearly 300 persons assembled on that occasion. An unusual number of the females of the congregation were also present to testify their grief and their respect for their departed friend.

He was remarkable for his kindness and benevolence towards all; he was universally beloved by old and young, high and low, rich and poor; and he often proved a wise and faithful counsellor to inquiring souls who were seeking the way to Zion but could not clearly see the path.

He was very zealous to advance the cause of Christ; the prosperity of Zion was his chief care. According to his means he was very liberal in his contributions for religious

objects which he performed in a systematic manner. For this end he adopted a plan for laying by him in store according as the Lord had prospered him. At the end of every week he laid aside a certain rate per pound or per dollar, for every dollar received, which he placed in the Lord's treasury to be devoted to him. This he reckoned to be sacred money, not to be touched, nor used for any other purpose, except for something in connection with the cause of Christ, either at home or abroad.

In ecclesiastical and theological questions he took a deep interest. The Marriage Affinity Question gave him great concern. Last year went up to Halifax to attend the Synod which met there, for the purpose of hearing the discussion of that subject. He lived to hear the decision of the Synod at Truro, on this question, and this was the last thing on earth in which he took an interest. He was highly pleased with the decision, and expressed his delight somewhat like old Simon when he said, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation."

STATISTICS OF ST. JOHN PRESBYTERY.

The following is the Report (slightly abridged) of the Committee on Statistics of the Presbytery of St. John. The Committee consisted of Revs. S. Houston and J. C. Burgess:

The Adherents returned this year number 8,363, or, if there be 200 or so set down for the stations in Victoria County, they are about 8,600. The families are 1,697, making allowance for the district just referred to, they are 1,750. The communicants are 1,992. About the same number of accessions were made to full membership last year as the previous one, namely, 158; but the removals by death and otherwise are unusually numerous, amounting to 135. The net gain has, therefore, been but 23. The Ruling Elders are 104, being an increase of 3. There are 37 Sabbath Schools, 216 Teachers, and 1,732 Pupils, being an increase of 22 in the Teachers and 71 in the Pupils.

The census returns taken by Government in 1871 were published a short time ago, and it may be interesting to compare them with those now presented to the Presbytery. Within your bounds are embraced 10 entire counties, Charlotte on the west, the seven river counties and Albert and Westmoreland on the east, together with a slice of Kent. In these 10 counties the census gives to our Synod a population of 14,405, or if some allowance be made for the column headed Presbyterians, some of