

arche, in which after the mention of the Genealogy, age and family of each, there is added, "And he died." So of each of that generation. Long some of them survived, but one after another they have fallen; and now he who for years had stood alone, like some solitary tree of the forest, which has been spared when all its fellows had fallen before the woodman's axe,—has gone too.—During life he enjoyed a measure of health such as is permitted to but few of the human family, and survived to an age attained by still fewer, but now we have to record of him as of all his associates, "And he died," and we are ready to exclaim,—*"The fathers where are they, and the prophets do they live forever."*

"Need I remind you, brethren, that a time will come, when of all who have been at the table of the Lord, at this first communion in this congregation, it will be said, they are all dead.—When Xerxes the king of Persia had gathered his enormous army for the invasion of Greece, it is related that on one occasion, contemplating the various nations of men ranged under his banners, collected from the various Provinces of his empire, he wept.—When asked the reason, he said that he wept to think, that in one hundred years not one of that mighty host would be living upon the earth. In much less time we may safely assert, that your minister and elders, and the whole of this congregation will be mouldering in the dust, and that another generation yet unborn will occupy the communion table, and another preacher yet unborn occupy this pulpit. Some may be called away soon. Ere another communion some in the strength of manhood may be laid low, and the relentless mower will pursue his way, one and another falling before him, until the few who remain (now in the vigor of youth) will be hoary headed patriarchs,—and these too will continue to drop off, until only one will remain to tell of the first communion in Salem Church, and the minister and people who then engaged in this solemn ordinance. And at last he too will be gathered to his fathers, and the generation then existing will exclaim regarding us, as we do of those who have gone before us. "The fathers where are they, and the prophets do they live forever."

But while we contemplate the transitory nature of humanity, observe the

permanence of the word of God.—Though all of that generation are gathered to their fathers, God has yet a seed to serve him in our borders. His kingdom has advanced in this quarter. At the first dispensation of the Supper the number of communicants was 130. This little band embraced all the Church members in this County, or even for some distance around, for our Church was then the only one organized in this section of the country. Now we have eight congregations in the county, besides others beyond the bounds of the county, within the bounds of Dr. McGregor's labours. And from the rise of other denominations, our Church now scarcely embraces the one half of the population of the county. Though this progress is perhaps not as great as could have been expected or desired, it is so far cheering, and warrants us to look for the fulfilment in the future, of the promise: "The children of thy servants shall continue and their seed shall be established before thee."

"All flesh is grass and the goodness of man is the flower of the field: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth,—but the word of our God shall stand forever." Is it not a delightful thought, that notwithstanding the frailty of man, the cause of God will never perish from the earth—that while the bush burns, it is not consumed—that while from time to time he is calling his servants to their reward, relieving them from the toils of conflict to enjoy the fruits of victory, he is raising up others to supply their places—that while the fathers are taken away, instead of the fathers he takes the children, and that while to our risen Redeemer have been committed the keys of hell and death, the gates of the grave shall never prevail against his Church. Every object around us, even the most permanent, exhibits symptoms of mutation. But in contrast with this, the divine glory is the more signally manifested in the perishable nature of his cause. "Lift up your eyes to the heavens and look upon the earth beneath, for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner, but my salvation shall be forever, and my righteousness shall not be abashed."

This subject suggests several practi-