

POETRY.

THE POOR MAN'S FUNERAL.

BY THE REV. JAMES GRAHAME.

You motley sable-suited throng, that wait
Around the poor man's door, announce a tale
Of woe; the husband, parent, is no more,
Contending with disease, he laboured long,
By penury compell'd; yielding at last,
He laid him down to die; but, lingering on
From day to day, he from his sick-bed saw,
Heart-broken quite, his children's looks of want
Veil'd in a cloud of smile; alas! he heard
The elder, lispingly, attempt to still
The younger's plaint—languid he raised his head,
And thought he yet could toil, but sank
Into the arms of death, the poor man's friend.

The coffin is borne out; the humble pomp
Moves slowly on; the orphan mourner's hand
(Poor helpless child!) just reaches to the pall.
And now they pass into the field of graves,
And now around the narrow house they stand,
And view the plain black board sink from the sight.
Hollow the mansion of the dead resounds,
As falls each spadeful of the bone-mix'd mould.
The turf is spread; uncovered is each head—
A last farewell: all turn their several ways.
Woe's me! those tear-dimm'd eyes, that sobbing breast,
Poor child! thou thinkest of the kindly hand
That went to lead thee home—no more that hand
Shall aid thy feeble gait, or gently stroke
Thy sun-bleach'd head and downy cheek.
But go, a mother waits thy homeward steps;
In vain her eyes dwell on the sacred page—
Her thoughts are in the grave; 'tis thou alone,
Her first-born child, canst rouse that statue gaze
Of woe profound. Haste to the widow'd arms;
Look with thy fathers look, speak with his voice,
And melt a heart that else will break with grief.

Ecclesiastical Intelligence.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA.

We beg leave earnestly to recommend the perusal and attentive consideration of the following circular address from the Commission of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, to the friends of the Church of Scotland throughout British North America. If it be desired, as we hope it is, that this ancient Church, rooted as it is in the veneration and affection of every one of its members, should, at least, have a co-ordinate standing with any other Church in these Provinces, a strong effort must—we emphatically say *must*—be made by its friends to encourage the noble institution proposed to be established by the Commission of the Synod. Other denominations of Christians are indefatigable in their exertions to erect schools and other institutions, for the purpose of disseminating their doctrines, and promoting their peculiar interests and views. In this laudable struggle for the supremacy of doing good, shall it be said of the Church of Scotland, that she is an idle spectator—that the members and devout worshippers at her holy altar, are unwilling to promote, by every means in their power, the true interests of that venerable and scriptural fabric? On the contrary, we have every reason to believe, that the proposed plan of establishing a College in Kingston, for the education of candidates for the holy ministry of the established Church of Scotland, will receive the sanction, and experience the support of every one connected with the establishment, both at home and abroad. Such an institution, full of learning, piety, and rational zeal in the highest and best of causes, as it undoubtedly will be, cannot fail, we should think, in enlisting the best feelings—in exciting the sincerest good wishes of all who are interested in the increase and prosperity of the Church of Scotland. Let such, therefore, seriously reflect on the good they can do, by lending the smallest assistance in their power to the support of the proposed seminary; and sure we are, that the time is not far distant, when they will be rewarded beyond their utmost expectations, in beholding a superstructure as patriotic and praiseworthy in design, as beneficial in its effects, upon the social and religious habits of the community among whom it is intended to be raised:—*Montreal Gazette*.

ADDRESS OF THE COMMISSION OF SYNOD.

To the Members and Adherents of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connexion with the Church of Scotland.

BRETHREN,—The Synod, at the meeting in Kingston, in July last, determined on founding a College in Kingston, for the education of youth, and particularly for the education of candidates for the Holy

Ministry: and the Synod then also devolved on us, the Commission, the important work of obtaining a Bill of Incorporation for such College, and of raising funds, and taking other necessary measures for its establishment. And we now affectionately, and we will add, confidently, address ourselves to you, soliciting your co-operation and aid in this undertaking.

We feel, as we may well do, that we are commencing a great work—and this at a season in which many things bear an untoward aspect to it. Yet we are not dismayed by the feebleness of our own resources or the difficulties of the times. We trust that these things will incline us the more to look for the Divine blessing,—without which, such an enterprise in any circumstances would miscarry, and to prosecute it with humility, prudence and resolution.

We would have you to consider, that the institution which we are about to found, is designed first, for the thorough culture in human and divine learning of youths amongst ourselves, who are giving themselves to the ministry of the glorious Gospel—an object this, which, whether viewed in itself or in reference to the destitution of spiritual labour which prevails around us, must commend itself to you all as unspeakably important. The Great Head of the Church has put it into the hearts of a goodly number of our own young men, to aspire after the ministry, just when the supply of labourers from our native land seems ready to fail us, and hence, the urgent duty on our part, to direct and encourage them to suitable preparatory studies, and at the same time to provide a permanent institution for the training up of ministers.

The Church of Scotland has always since the days of the Reformation, been creditably distinguished for the scholarship of her ministers, and so have most of the churches in Europe and America, which have sprung from her. And we, verily, are neither in an age nor a land, in which we can contemplate a diminished standard of ministerial education. Infidelity is eager to engage learning and science in her unholy cause, but we must shew that it is only by a perversion of these—that they can lend her any service—and that they are the legitimate hand-maids of divine truth, being subservient at once to the knowledge, and to the publication of it.

Then, consider that the same Institution is designed secondly, for the instruction in the elements of general Literature and Science, of such as may desire to cultivate them for secular professions.

The education which is preparative for the study of Theology, is also preparative for the study of other sciences. And, if this be given, as we would have it done, in harmony with Divine Truth and in connexion with a Christian discipline over our students, then we doubt not that many parents, who justly think learning too dearly purchased for their children, at the ordinary risk of having their principles and morals corrupted, will be glad to send them to our institution.

The Commission after much deliberation have determined on commencing the institution with two Professors and two Assistants or Tutors.—The selection of the Professors in the first instance to be with the Committee on Colonial Churches of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Eminent talents, well disciplined by study, and consecrated to the cause of true religion, are the qualifications we will look for in our teachers. And, we humbly pray and hope that the Great Head of the Church, who has raised up such men as Dr. Duff and his coadjutors, for Hindostan, will put it into the hearts of men of like gifts and piety, to give themselves to the advancement of his cause in this land, by stationing themselves at the fountain heads of learning in it.

For the founding of the Institution, on the scale now mentioned, we look for aid from the Mother Country; and communications are about to be sent to the Committee of the General Assembly, the Committee of the Glasgow Colonial Missionary Society, Presbyteries in England, and the Synod of Ulster.—Yet we entertain the full conviction, and we would have you feel the same, that our own exertions and sacrifices towards this great work will be the measure of the assistance that we may expect from other quarters, Christians and Churches elsewhere, yea, and the State itself, may be expected to help us, when they see that we are in earnest in carrying it forward.

We do therefore, entreat you, friends and brethren, by the vast importance, and the necessity of this undertaking, to assist us in it by large and bountiful offerings. Think how the Israelites in the wilderness responded to the call of Moses, for offerings of gold and silver and precious stones and suitable furniture, for the erection and adornment of the moveable sanctuary, in which the cloud of glory dwelt, even so, as that their liberality had ultimately to be restrained,—and shall the population of the Canadas, acknowledging a connexion with the Presbyterian Church amounting, as is said, to 100,000 souls, feel it too great a burden to raise eighty or one hundred thousand dollars for objects so momentous as the training of youths

for the ministry of the gospel, and for the professions which the necessities of secular life require?

Our desire and purpose is to give all the members and adherents of our Church an opportunity of contributing to the proposed Institution. We have appointed Committees in every Presbytery, who may associate others with them, and whose business will be to plead this cause within the bounds of every congregation.

The following gentlemen have been appointed to act as local Treasurers, to whom payments may be made on account of the College, by collectors or individual contributors, viz:—

ANDREW STEVEN, Esq. *Gore Bank, Hamilton.*
JOHN CAMERON, Esq. *Commercial Bank, Toronto.*
FRANCIS HARPER, Esq. *do. do. Kingston.*
HON. PETER M'GILL, *Montreal.*
JOHN THOMSON, Esq. *Quebec.*

Trusting that the proposed Institution will commend itself at once to the patriotism and piety of those into whose hands this circular comes, we claim for the Institution both their offerings and prayers.—“Wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of Messiah's times,” and let ours be the honour and blessedness of those who aid in the extension of his Kingdom.

In name and by appointment of the Commission of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, at Hamilton, this ninth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and thirty nine years.

ROBERT M'GILL, *Moderator.*
ALEXANDER GALE, *Clerk.*

ORIENTAL LANGUAGES IN THE UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW.

The late appointment of Dr. Fleming, to the Professorship of Moral Philosophy, has thrown one of the chairs of the Theological faculty vacant—that of Oriental Languages. This is a chair of very high importance to our students of divinity, and through them to the Church at large. In these sifting times, when every institution in the land is menaced with danger, and when none can hope to outlive the storm who are not strongly rooted in public confidence and esteem, it is more than ever necessary, that the ranks of the ministry in our Zion should be filled with men thoroughly qualified for all the high functions of their sacred and responsible office. There is, therefore, a call of the most urgent kind, to have every vacancy in the theological faculties of our Universities most efficiently supplied; and, we feel that we are not going further than notorious facts warrant, when we venture to say, that the Church in these days has a peculiar claim on the Universities, in virtue of which she is entitled to expect an anxious attention in this matter to her interests. When the Universities were recently threatened with an invasion of their ancient charters and constitutional privileges, the Church lent her whole energy and influence, with the utmost zeal and promptitude, to avert the danger. It is the most legitimate and truly valuable acknowledgment of this service the Universities can make, to see that her candidates for the ministry be provided, with the best and most faithful instructors that can be procured.—The Hebrew chair is one that might be turned to immense account in the curriculum of theological study; and we trust, therefore, that no pains will be spared to have it supplied with a first-rate man. In filling up, last year, the mournful blank that was created by the death of the accomplished and lamented Sir Daniel Sandford, the Rector, Principal, and Professors, on whom that duty devolved, evinced an evident and most laudable determination to be guided in their choice solely by the merits of the respective candidates. We hope to see the same principle equally conspicuous in the selection of a Hebrew Professor. We have no doubt that among the candidates, some one eminently fitted for the situation, not merely by his knowledge of the Hebrew tongue, and of Rabbinical and Oriental learning generally, but by his known ability in the application of that learning, to the right interpretation of Scripture, will be found. For the honour, as well as for the welfare of our Church, we express this as our confident expectation. And if such a man be in the field, the Church has surely a right to expect that no considerations of personal friendship, and much less of party feeling, shall be allowed to stand in the way of his appointment. We throw out these few remarks merely to arrest the attention of the public, and especially of the Church, upon the subject—having no object whatever in view, but a sincere and earnest desire to promote the cause of true religion, and the best interests of our venerable Establishment.—*Scottish Guardian*.

ESTIMATE OF LIFE.—Measure not life by the hopes and enjoyments of this world, but by the preparation it makes for another; looking forward to what you shall be, rather than backward to what you have been.—*Sir J. Suckling*.