

one or more of the most promising of their number, to be gathered as fruit ripe into his garner.

When the Secession church commenced training men for the ministry, the first student they licensed died three months after. One said to a Seceder, that this showed that God was frowning on that Church. "No," was the reply; "he is only taking to himself the first fruits, and it is the pledge of the abundant harvest." At all events this small band did not long remain with ranks unbroken. Before the second session passed they had to mourn the loss of one of the most promising and best beloved of their number, Archibald Patterson, a son of old Deacon John Patterson, founder of the town of Pictou. In the spring of 1821 he went to Scotland to prosecute his studies there (young men had some of the same ambitions that they have now.) He took passage in a timber vessel. He had a cold when he left, which his friends thought nothing of, but with the poor accommodations on board such, or perhaps any vessels, at that time, he arrived, with it developed into a severe affection of the lungs, from which he never rallied. His trouble ended in consumption, of which he died on the 25th September, 1821. He is buried in the Gaelic Kirk Yard, Paisley, where a monument is erected to his memory. Rev. R. S. Patterson writes of him: "He was the most promising of all the students. He and I were intimately acquainted. There was perhaps none that surpassed him in the class. When the Cato Street conspiracy took place an exercise prescribed to the class was an oration on the event. The one delivered by him was considered the best upon the occasion. His early removal by death seemed to be a loss to the church,—nay, a great loss." And the Rev. John McKinlay thus writes on the occasion of his death: "As Dr. McCulloch will inform you there are eleven students of divinity here. They are all very respectable young men, and in point of talent very fair. Some of them will make excellent preachers. It gave us much pain to hear of the death of Mr. Patterson. He was a very fine young man and of good dispositions and abilities. This is the first breach among us and is a monitor to survivors."

We may note briefly the history of the rest. Michael McCulloch was the oldest son of the Professor. About the time of the