

For the Christian Messenger.

## Obituary Notice.

MR. DAVID BLACKMORE,

Who died on the 19th of January, 1859, aged 44 years, was born at Onslow, N. S., where he resided until some 18 years ago, when he removed to River John, and resided there until his death. It is about 21 years since he openly professed faith in Christ, and united with the Onslow church, under the pastorate of the late much lamented Elder Munro. He has left a widow and seven children to mourn their loss; but not to "sorrow as those who have no hope." He was held in high esteem by the community generally, as an affectionate husband, a kind parent, an obliging neighbour, and ready to every good work. A very large concourse of people attended his funeral, when the Sons of Temperance walked in procession and performed the rites of their Order. The writer delivered a discourse upon the occasion, founded upon Job xiv. 10, in the Presbyterian Meeting-house, to a solemn and attentive audience.—*Com. by Rev. B. Scott.*

## Burn's Centenary Celebration.

We were unable to give any satisfactory account of this celebration in our last, as it took place on Tuesday afternoon. Our difficulty now is to condense anything like a fair report within the limits we allow ourselves for such matters. As, however, it occupied the attention of our most prominent men, we should not do justice to our readers in the country were we to abridge our account of it to a few lines.

Well then, on Tuesday morning, many of the Scotchmen and their descendants resident in the city showed their appreciation of their national poet—by flags from their houses. At 2 o'clock, the Temperance Hall was opened for the admission of ladies. At 3, about 300 gentlemen walked in procession—with banners and pipers, from Mason Hall to the Temperance Hall, and these, with others who had obtained tickets, filled it to its utmost capacity.—Hundreds being unable to get admission. The Venerable Chief Justice filled the chair, and, in a brief, but chaste and eloquent speech, introduced the Hon. Mr. Young to the meeting.

Mr. Young discoursed with much animation and eloquence on the genius and productions of ROBERT BURNS, and, with unflagging interest, carried his crowded audience of the beauty and intelligence of Halifax back to the times of Burns and the prevalent customs of that interesting period of Scottish history. The sentiments which his writings illustrate and his songs inculcate were highly eulogised, and although not free from blemish, yet it was suggested that his habits of thought should not be judged by the advancement of the present day, but in the light of the prevailing tone of society of seventy years ago.

Mr. Young continued for about an hour and a half, and illustrated his remarks by quotations from Burns's poetry and prose writing, being frequently interrupted with bursts of applause.

When the orator of the day had resumed his seat, the Venerable Chairman was requested to allow Wm. Murdoch, Esq., to occupy the chair for a few minutes.

John Esson, Esq., then rose, and, in appropriate language, moved that the thanks of the meeting be given to His Lordship the Chief Justice, for so readily consenting to fill the chair at the present meeting, and expressed a wish, which was common to all, that he might long be spared to mingle in such scenes.

Some spirited Scotch airs were played in the intervals of the meeting.

The Hon. Attorney General, who sat in the body of the Hall, here rose and called the attention of the meeting to an omission. "It seemed to him that His Lordship the Chief Justice should not have been allowed to vacate the chair, before the meeting had expressed in the strongest manner possible, the feelings of thankfulness they entertained towards the Orator of the Day for the Address he had delivered. He would therefore move that the thanks of the meeting be conveyed to the Hon. William Young, for the able, eloquent and instructive oration with which he had gratified them,—and which would find its way to the heart of every Scotchman the world over."

The Hon. Mr. Young expressed much gratification at receiving this unexpected compliment from the Hon. Attorney General.

Three cheers were given for the Queen, three for the Chief Justice and three for the Hon. Mr. Young, after which the procession was again formed and passed through several streets back to the Mason Hall.

In the evening, a banquet was held at Mason Hall, at which His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor and other notabilities, to the number of about 300, were present.

On introducing the name of Her Majesty, the Hon. Mr. Young remarked:—

"It is our singular good fortune, while under the rule of a great constitutional monarch, to acknowledge the sway of an accomplished woman, and an exemplary wife and mother. The calm and almost severe simplicity with which our Queen has assumed the empire of India, and of more than a hundred millions of human beings, has something in it approaching to the sublime. But Her Majesty not only commands the respectful homage of the intelligent and sound-thinking in every part of her dominions, but knows also how to draw to herself the subtler and finer essences—the unreasoning it may be—but the romantic and fervid attachment which clung so long and so passionately to a race now no more. Burns has declared that his poetic fervor kindled amid the stern grandeur of the Highlands—and so also the hereditary loyalty of the North has kindled into a brighter glow when transferred to the Royal Mistress of Balmoral."

Speeches were delivered by several gentlemen, having reference to the different toasts given from the chair. In reply to the one referring to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor.

Lord Mulgrave rose and said,—

"Perhaps, Mr. President and Gentlemen, it may be expected of me before alluding to the toast to which you have so warmly responded, to say a few words in explanation of the reasons which induced me to allow the last toast, which under other circumstances it would have been my duty to respond to, to be drank in silence. I refrained, however, from offering any remarks upon it, for the simple reason that I did not wish to inflict on you two speeches on the same subject.

"It affords me, sir, the greatest pleasure to join in the commemoration of an event which is even now being celebrated, not only in this city, but in the Mother Country, British America, the United States,—in fine, sir, over the whole world, wherever the English language is known.—(Enthusiastic cheering.) On this day, wherever Scotchmen dwell—wherever the Anglo-Saxon race have fixed their domicile—men of every shade of opinion, of every station, may be found uniting together, cordially and heartily, to honor a man who, during his life, occupied a somewhat humble station, and did not receive that reward and encouragement which his transcendent genius so justly merited. (Rapturous applause.) It is not my intention to descant on the poetical abilities and distinguished talent of Burns, great as they were; for after the address delivered to-day by your worthy Chairman upon that subject, it would be in vain for me to attempt to depict in more glowing colors than he did the merits of that extraordinary man—the struggles he had to undergo, or the difficulties which beset him in the performance of the great work he had in hand. There is one point in his history, however, to which I may allude, for I think from the contemplation of it, the juniors of this country may be incited to follow the noble example he set.—(Cheers.)

"Burns, the son of a farmer, himself a ploughman, from his earliest youth upwards, strove unceasingly to cultivate his mind, and succeeded to a degree which enabled him to produce those beautiful, those immortal poems, which have gained for him universal celebrity, exhibited in the celebration of this day,—an honour I believe, never accorded to man before. He had no external aids to assist him. His birth was humble; and, sir, though I cannot be supposed to disparage the advantages of birth, if the position it confers be rightly used, yet my tendencies of mind have always induced me to honor far more the man who has made his own position, and by his unaided exertions, achieved fame for himself, than he who owes it to his lineage, however exalted. (Prolonged cheering.) Such was the case with Burns, and such I hope may be the case with many of the inhabitants of this Province. Nova Scotia has already given men to the world, whose names will be illustrious in history. Within the last two years—nay, sir, within the short period I have resided within this Province, you have one example—when your Legislature had the pleasing duty to perform of marking the high sense they entertained of the courage, skill, and assiduity of one of Nova Scotia's sons. (Cheers.)

"Another instance occurred shortly before my arrival here. But, though I refer only to these two instances, there are many other names which will go down to posterity with honour and renown.

"In the Church—in the Senate—in the field—at the Bar, or in the arena of commerce, are to be found Nova Scotians equally honoured, equally esteemed by their countrymen, and whose renown is not confined to the narrow limits of this Province. Who can tell the effect, who can gage the influence which the history of a man like Burns has exerted upon these men? Who can say what a contemplation of his untiring assiduity may lead the sons of Nova Scotia to achieve in the future? (Cheers.)

"Education is not confined to the seminary or the college, though the influence of such institutions cannot be underrated. Self instruction may effect vast results—the soul and the mind of man—that which distinguishes him from the brute creation, is susceptible of cultivation and improvement. Education is to the mind what the labor of the husbandman is to the soil,—with it everything can be accomplished—without it nothing. (Cheers.)

"Let me urge, then, upon my audience, the necessity of cultivation in the season of youth,—for that is the period during which a store of information may be hoarded, from which the possessor may reap a rich reward in after life.

"Your Honorable Chairman has alluded to my career in parliament. It is true, sir, that for ten years I succeeded in retaining the confidence of a large and influential constituency in

my own country, and during that period, I may without egotism say, I endeavoured conscientiously and without intermission to perform the duties incumbent on me to fulfil. I own that I did not often participate in the public debates, for I am one of those who think that actions speak louder than words. Nor do I pretend to be anything of an orator, though not underrating the importance of public speaking. But while in the House of Commons, I have often thought that if a little less was said and a little more was done, the public interests would be better subserved. While there, I took my stand in the ranks of the party to which I belonged. I was essentially a party man, and never lost an opportunity of advocating the principles I conscientiously entertained. I have, however, the satisfaction of knowing that during my parliamentary career, from the day I entered the House of Commons until I left it, I always knew how to distinguish between political antagonism and social friendship. And, sir, one of the most pleasing episodes in my life occurred to me when I received the appointment to the post which I now hold. In moving for a new writ for the Borough I represented, occasion was taken by many of my friends in the Commons to refer, in terms complimentary, to myself, and although such a reference from me at this time may seem somewhat egotistical, I cannot refrain from saying that the manner in which my appointment was received was most gratifying to my mind. And, sir, I only trust that when I leave this Province I may carry away with me the good feelings of every party, sect, denomination, and shade of politics, as I trust I did when I left the House of Commons.—(Cheers.)

"I told you that while there I was a party man, but when I left that body I ceased to belong to any party. In this country I know no party; and, sir, so long as I hold the office to which Her Majesty has been pleased to appoint me—whoever be selected by this people to administer their public affairs—shall receive from me an honest, cordial, constitutional support—and it will be the greatest satisfaction to me, if by God's blessing I may be enabled in any way to promote the interests and well being of Nova Scotia and its inhabitants. (Prolonged cheering.)"

Hon. WILLIAM YOUNG. I find that it is precisely ten o'clock, at which hour we have been requested to join with those engaged in the celebration this day in drinking to the following toast—

"Kindred associations throughout the world—May they preserve the songs and disseminate the sentiments of Burns, till—

"Man to man the world o'er  
Shall brothers be and a' that."

Our report must close with the following brief extract.

The Hon. Attorney General rose and said,—

"I comply with the request of the Chairman, to acknowledge this toast in the assurance that whatever engages the warm affections of a large portion of the community will meet a hearty response in the Legislature of this our common country, where are and must be united in indissoluble bonds, the interests and the affections, the hopes and the cares, of all the members that make up that common country, as the streams that find the same channel to the sea, although they may not at once commingle, and for a time may each preserve the peculiar tinge it brought from its rocky source, yet all unite in making up the volume and power, the beauty and the usefulness of the noble river that enriches the land. There may be some here who imagine that the hall of Legislation is not 'meet nurse' for poetic fancies; and who see small harmony between the occasion of this festival and the toast I am called upon to answer. But they who have experience, and who know what are the tender, love-engendering influences of red benches, and high backed courtly chairs, might, perhaps, rebuke such scepticism. (Laughter.) Without, however, venturing on this difficult problem, I may say, that even in the arid atmosphere of politics may be found the susceptibilities to be moved by Burns' tender strains, and to render deep homage to the power of his muse. But Burns had other claims to universal regard, beside poetic genius; and it is not left to his countrymen alone to do honor to the memory of one on whom nature had stamped a nobility confined within no national borders; and who, though he loved the land so dear to him with intensity, had yet a heart that warmed with a sentiment on higher than classic authority, even the stirrings of his own generous emotions, that nothing human was alien to his affections; and, who under all the varieties of which the character and lot of man is subject, unless, indeed, of baseness, with which Burns held no terms,—felt and acknowledged that—

"A man's a man for a' that." Cheers.

There are peculiarities in this celebration;—anniversaries are always interesting, because they present images of times long gone by, and scenes far away, free from the roughness incident to the business of every day life; but here it has taken not one year, but the circle of one hundred years, to give voice, unweakened by reflection, to the emotions of this day.

"To-day is a grand exception, and by common consent over all the wide domain of our gracious Queen, prices current are thrown aside, that one universal act of homage may be paid to the genius of Poetry, as it breathed and poured itself fresh on the heart and from the lips of Burns.

"The name of Burns is associated with my early recollections. I spent some years of my boyhood under the roof and care of the Minister of Ruthwell, a few miles from Dumfries—himself a man of talent—a poet, and a philanthropist,—the Rev. Dr. Henry Duncan, author of "the Philosophy of the seasons." He had been

the friend of Burns, was intimately acquainted with his history and the ardent admirer of his genius, from him I learnt leniency to the failings and sympathy with the poetry of Burns, whilst the things connected with his eventual but short career, were as household words.

"At this time Mrs. Burns and her family lived in Dumfries, where I also was at school for some time, and the house she occupied was then familiar to me. I entered into the defence you made to-day of Burns' moral and religious character without denying or attempting to palliate what was wrong in his conduct or works. I will venture the remark that if there were nothing since then more glorious to recommend Burns, the universal tribute that day accorded to him over the world would never have been exhibited. But Burns was a man of a noble nature."

The Attorney General made allusion to various elements in Burns' character. His manly independence—his large humanity—his hatred of oppression—his tender sympathy with the suffering, and his warm affections.

A deep reverence for the Deity and religion it was asserted was manifested in many of his pieces, notwithstanding the rashness of expression in others,—nor could the imputation of a libertine be justly imputed to one who ever maintained an elevated opinion of the female sex, and whose more impassioned and indignant appeals were aroused in their favor against the heartless seducer.

The Atty. General quoted a few lines from several of Burns' pieces in support of his views—"The Winter's Night"—"The Cotter's Saturday Night"—"The Mountain Daisy"—and especially the Epistle to a young friend.

Burns had himself a generous heart, and men will deal gently with the frailties of those who judge others by the standard he erected when he sang—

"Then gently scan your brither man,  
And gentler sister woman;  
Though they may gang a little wrang,  
To step aside is human."

## The Rev. T. Binney, in Australia.

The following interesting account of the Rev. T. Binney, a popular and highly esteemed Congregationalist minister, from London, who has been on a visit to Australia for the benefit of his health, is from the Correspondent of the London Freeman:—

Mr. Binney has been received everywhere, during his tour in Australia, with great enthusiasm, and a desire was frequently expressed that he might be invited to preach in one of the Episcopal places of worship. In connection with this desire, a letter, from which we furnish some extracts, was addressed to Mr. Binney by the Bishop of Adelaide.

The Bishop proceeds to say that he and those who, like him, have quitted the mother-country for the colony in which they now reside, are led by their altered circumstances to inquiry as to the grounds of their conscientious convictions, and that the result of such inquiries must tend to a liberal and tolerant feeling in relation to the views of others. The Bishop adds:—

"You yourself have given a fresh impetus to such reflections. Your fame as a preacher has preceded you. I knew that you would be welcomed by all who in your own immediate section of the Evangelical Church take an interest in religion, and by all in our own who are admirers of genius and piety, even though the echoes of your King's Weighhouse sermon had not quite died away. Hundreds I knew would ask themselves, 'Why should I not go and listen to the powerful preaching of Mr. Binney? And when they heard you reason of righteousness, temperance, and judgement to come; of Christ, who he was and what he did, how he died for our sins and rose again for our justification, I felt assured that they would ask again, 'Why is he not invited to preach to us in our churches? What is the barrier which prevents him and other ministers from joining with our clergy at the Lord's table, and interchanging the ministry of the Word in their respective pulpits? Was it any real difference with respect to the person, office, and work of the Redeemer, the power of the Spirit of God, or the lost condition of man without Christ and the Comforter?'

"I am truly glad that so considerable a person as yourself should by your presence in this colony have forced me to consider again the question, 'Why I could not invite you to preach to our congregations; to review my position, principles, beliefs, and prepossessions; more especially as the absence of sectarian prejudice on your part, and the presence of all that in social life can conciliate esteem and admiration, reduced the question to its simple ecclesiastical dimensions.

"Again and again the thought recurred to me, *Talis cum sis utinam noster esses!* Still I felt that neither the power of your intellect, nor vigour of your reasoning, nor mighty eloquence nor purity of life, nor suavity of manners, nor soundness in the faith, would justify me in departing from the rule of the Church of England; a tradition of eighteen centuries which declares your orders irregular, your mission the offspring of division, and your church system—I will not say schism—but *dichostasy*."

"But while adhering to this conclusion, I am free to confess that my feelings kick against my judgement; and I am compelled to ask myself, is this 'standing apart' to continue for ever? Is division to pass from functional disease into the structural type of church organisation? Are the Lutheran and Reformed, the Presbyterian and Congregationalist, the Baptist and Wesleyan bodies, to continue separate from the Episcopal communion so long as the

\* Gal. v. 20, "seditions," literally "standing apart."