

SUPPLEMENT

FOR

The Presbytery of Dornoch

JANUARY 1907.

The Late Reverend Donald Grant, D.D., Dornoch.

ON Friday the 23rd day of November last, amid surroundings that fully evidenced prevailing and profound respect and sorrow, the grave closed over all that was mortal of the Reverend Dr. Grant, Dornoch, who died at the Manse there, after a brief illness, at the comparatively early age of 58, and after 28 years of faithful, acceptable, and helpful service as Minister of the Parish. A native of Abernethy, Inverness-shire, and with a distinguished University career at Aberdeen and St. Andrews, the subject of this notice officiated for a short time as Assistant to the late Reverend Lewis Rose, Parish Minister of Tain, and, after a brief pastorate in Clyne, to which he was ordained in 1877, he was in the following year translated to Dornoch in the same Presbytery. In early life he occupied the position of Headmaster of a public school for a short time, and all along he took a keen and enlightened, as well as an eminently practical, interest in matters educational; strictly so-called, being both an expert and an enthusiast in that realm, and by his death the teaching profession, and what may be termed school interests generally, in Dornoch and outside of it, have lost a friend indeed.

As a minister of "the Everlasting Gospel," Dr. Grant, on whom the degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred in 1903 by the University of St. Andrews, had an attractively high conception of the sacredness and responsibilities of his office, and his life was in harmony with this lofty estimate. While not unacquainted with, nor lacking in sympathy towards, certain of those latest or more modern ways of looking at "old truths," which some people regard as essential for what are usually called present-day requirements, Dr. Grant held tenaciously to those tenets that most of us like to think of as those "that cannot be shaken," and in his pulpit addresses, in the preparation of which he was scrupulously painstaking and exact, he never failed to give prominence to the necessity of devout reverence for, and trust in, the sinner's "One Foundation," the Rock of Ages, "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday and to-day and for ever."

In the Presbytery of Dornoch, of which he was Clerk for several years up to the time of his death,

his wide and accurate knowledge of Church law and ecclesiastical procedure, combined with his genial courtesy and obliging ways, were of vast aid towards the successful and agreeable conduct of the business of the Court, and at the first meeting of Presbytery that took place after his death, and at which a high tribute of respect and sorrow was recorded in the Minutes, the sense of a great loss was felt and expressed by all the brethren present.

By those that knew him best—and he had warm and constant friends outside as well as within his own Church and Congregation—Dr. Grant was looked upon as a strong, reliable man, a sagacious adviser, and a friend to be trusted through storm and sunshine alike. A diligent visitor to the sick and aged, he was a generous helper to the poor and friendless, and, as has been repeatedly heard said of him since his death, there are many in Dornoch and elsewhere that have "good cause to miss him."

While placing his professional work in the forefront of the claims of duty, Dr. Grant was interested and helpful in parish work generally; and in all that related to the welfare and prosperity of the quaint old Burgh of Dornoch his counsel and help were of vast usefulness, and very gratefully prized; nor will it be an easy matter to find a successor so markedly a good "all-round" man, at once so instructive a preacher and faithful a pastor and so public-spirited and useful a citizen.

Though not feeling in quite robust health for some months past, no anxiety was felt until some three or four weeks before the end, and, when the doctors told him that recovery was not to be looked for, he calmly submitted to the Will of the Moulder of the destiny of us all. In the brightly-sustaining hope and peaceful resignation, so manifest to those that stood at the side of his dying-bed, he, with a silent fortitude and an unflinching trust, preached with a special power those lessons of courage and peace he in his lifetime so often and so thoughtfully proclaimed and inculcated, and to the letter and to the last it may be said that in his own experience he realised the hope and comfort conveyed in the beautiful hymns "Thy Will be Done" and "Peace, Perfect Peace," and for which he always felt a special liking.

Dr. Grant is survived by his wife and a son and daughter. Mrs. Grant is the daughter of the

FROM

MRS. I. GRANT

2. GILCHRIST SQ.

DORNOCHE

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late James Hall, a West Indian planter, and several of her relatives attained marked distinction in the military world. She and her children have widespread and genuine sympathy in their sore bereavement, and numerous and earnest were the prayers to the Great Fountain of all help and comfort that they and the other relatives would, in the time of their great grief and loneliness, realise the near presence and supporting strength of Him who careth for us all, and who will "never leave nor forsake" us.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE REV. DR. GRANT, DORNOCH.

In conducting the service in the Dornoch Cathedral, on Sunday 2nd December, Rev. Mr. Macdonald, Rogart, in presence of a large and sympathetic congregation, paid a well-merited tribute to the excellence of the character and work of the late Parish Minister, Rev. Dr. Grant. Taking for his subject the words in the 14th chapter of Proverbs, 32nd verse, "The righteous hath hope in his death," Rev. Mr. Macdonald remarked that alike in motive, methods, and aims, their late pastor was to a distinctly definite extent entitled to be called a righteous man, and those that impartially viewed his life record, and who had seen or heard of the hopeful and peaceful resignation with which he contemplated his departure from the world, had presented to them a quite patent illustration of the inspiring and comforting lesson of the text. As a man, it was easy enough to discover in him robustness of intellect, a sturdy independence, and shrewdness

of discernment, and, though not given to emotional displays, those that best knew him were well aware of the genuine kindness of his heart, the tenderness of his sympathy, and of the frequency of his help to the poor and friendless. As a Christian and a pastor, strength and sincerity of conviction, and faithfulness to duty, were marked characteristics of their late minister; while of his public-spirited zeal in promoting the social and general welfare of all within the ancient burgh of Dornoch, and in the parish generally, as also of his helpfulness as a wise counsellor and a reliable friend, it was unnecessary to speak at any considerable length, those attractive qualities, as well as others, being well known to them all. Mr. Macdonald said he felt sure that the sorely bereaved wife and family, as also the other relatives, had their heart-felt sympathy, and their earnest prayers for comfort and strength to them at so lonely and sorrowful a time, and it was gratifying to think that the natural grief of the relatives must to some appreciable extent be modified by the reflection that he who has "gone before" them has, by his life and work, left them the precious heritage of the recollection of a character of genuine goodness and a life work of real usefulness. During the service several hymns, including "For Ever with the Lord," "Now the Labourer's Task is O'er," and "A Few More Years shall Roll," as also the well-known and beautiful paraphrase beginning with the words "O God of Bethel," were feelingly sung, with very capably played organ accompaniment, and the service throughout was impressive.

FROM.

Mrs J. I. GRANT

2. GILCHRIST SQ.

DORNOCH