

In Memoriam.

THE LATE REV. DUNCAN MCFARLANE.

THE venerable pastor of the church in Tiree, who was the oldest minister of the denomination in Scotland and the senior missionary of the Baptist Home Mission, died on the 30th September, in his 87th year, deeply mourned by the whole island and by very many Highlanders in the cities and the islands of the west to whom he had been a spiritual father. A commanding figure in our ministry in Scot-



land by virtue of the power of his message and the great work he was privileged to do, his departure involves a heavy loss to the denomination that cannot be supplied. The force and fervour with which he preached the gospel in the Gaelic tongue impressed multitudes, and many an islander from Skye to Islay has good reason to thank God for having come under the sound of Duncan McFarlane's silvery voice.

The facts of our friend's personal history are few. He came of sturdy crofter stock long settled in the island of Tiree, where he was born on 7th April, 1822, his father being William McFarlane, farmer at Balinoe. Besides himself, three brothers entered the ministry—John, pastor of the Baptist Church in Tiree for nearly thirty years; James, who served the churches in Greenock, Aberchirder, and Elgin, and one of whose daughters is the

wife of the respected President of the Baptist Union, the Rev. George Whittet; and Robert, who was minister of the Gaelic Church, Greenock, and subsequently of the parish of Glenorchy. In 1840, the vision of the Crucified arrested Duncan during a mission conducted by the devoted Baptist missionary of his native isle, Rev. Duncan Macdougald, and the equally devoted Congregational minister, Rev. A. Farquharson, and to the latter he looked as his spiritual father, though, when his convictions led him to the adoption of Baptist principles, Mr. Farquharson, despite his tender affection for him, regarded him doubtfully as an obedient son. He speedily took part in the evangelistic activities for which the island is noted, but no thought or hope of being wholly occupied in such work seems to have been cherished. The prospects of commercial life drew him to Tobermory, where he entered into business, married Miss Catherine MacLachlan (who predeceased him by three years and a half), and assumed the responsibilities of family life.

It was, therefore, no light undertaking for him to accept the invitation of the Committee of the Home Mission at the age of thirty-four and abandon business for evangelism. He went to Glasgow in 1856 for training in theology under Rev. John Shearer, of John Street, studying in winter and itinerating in summer through Mull, Ardnamurchan and Morven. In 1858 he was associated with Rev. Alexander Grant, of Tobermory, in the care of the church there and the evangelisation of a wide field, and many amusing and pathetic stories he used to recall of his experiences—of refusals of houses for meetings at the factor's instance, of hesitating grants by the minister of the church, but not the pulpit; and of large-hearted throwing open of home and wallet by the poor and the contemned.

In the summer of 1874 Tiree was visited by an awakening that was Pentecostal. Mr. McFarlane had come to administer baptism to two converts for his brother John, and the movement began at the service by the river-side. It rapidly spread; our chapels became too small, and the Established churches had to be borrowed; and evening after evening during the height of harvest the people hurried from the fields and crowded to hear the Word of Life. Within three months 97 persons were baptised; within a year 116; while hundreds of others made confession of a change of heart. Altogether about 400 out of a population of 2500 or so testified to their reception of the grace of God. Mr. McFarlane was in the midst of all the work, and where he went the power

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Rev. ALEXANDER MACARTHUR, ISLAY.

THE death of the pastor of the church at Bowmore on 26th March has come with stunning severity to the Baptists of Islay and with deep sorrow to his brethren throughout the denomination, particularly to those in the West, who knew his worth best. Only a few short months have passed since, at our autumnal gatherings in Dundee, he thrilled a crowded audience as he told the moving story of his labours in the island. His youthful eagerness and vivacity disguised the fact that he had attained his forty-eighth year and the ardour of his work seemed to contradict it. Even on the Sunday before he submitted to the surgeon's knife, he preached three times and journeyed 29 miles on this duty, although pain had not been absent for months. He is the third of our West Highland ministers who have died within the last year, and in Gaelic preachers we have become impoverished indeed.



In his early days, Mr MacArthur's parents removed from Perthshire to Tieve, which became his home; but it was in Glasgow that he was arrested by the truth, at the Highland Mission in Oswald Street; and he was baptised in St George's Cross Tabernacle. He speedily took a share in Christian work and this he continued when he went to Bunessan in Mull, becoming a loyal member of the church of which he became the pastor later. To fit himself better he studied at Dunoon College under the Rev. Duncan Macgregor, and in 1912 he was accepted by the Home Mission for evangelistic work in Colonsay with the care of the church there. Thence in 1920 he passed to Bunessan for three years and in 1923 to Port Ellen, where his diligent ministry consolidated and strengthened the cause. In all these places his energy and devotion inspired universal regard and his winning personality captured strangers and friends alike.

It was with sorrow that Port Ellen parted with him to Bowmore in February 1930, but he felt it obligatory to rally a discouraged people, and he was eminently

successful in the brief time accorded him. A new face soon appeared on the aspect of things. The work was re-organised, the congregation drawn together, a Sunday School and Band of Hope begun, a Young People's meeting instituted, the prayer meeting revived, and missionary and temperance lectures delivered to both young and old. Three services were held each Sunday, that in the afternoon being given to distant districts, 10 to 14 miles from the centre. It is a grief to the whole community of Bowmore that this fine and exalted spirit is lost to the town and the island. He had fought against his illness for the greater part of a year, disregarding it in the interests of his work, but Nature, slighted, has her inevitable reprisals, and the heart failed less than four days after the appendix operation. Our friend is "Prisoner in the cell of Time no more." His remains were taken to Lochgilphead on 30th March, and at the funeral service Rev. T. W. Lister represented the Union and the Home Mission and took part. The sudden and grievous bereavement of Mrs MacArthur engages the widest sympathy.

Mrs DONALD BELL.

On 3rd April, the widow of Rev. Donald Bell, Tobermory, passed away in her 78th year. Going to Tobermory at the time of her marriage in 1838, from the church at Broadford, she proved a true helpmeet to her husband in his work. She was devoted to the work of the Lord, the church, and the principles of the denomination. The later years of her life were spent in seclusion owing to increased physical inability, but she never waned in her zeal for the Master she served, always speaking fervently on the Word of the Lord, and holding fast to the experience she possessed for so many years. For two years she had been resident in Kirkcaldy with her younger son at whose home she passed away. She was buried in Tobermory by the side of her husband who entered into his rest six years ago.

The funeral service was held in the church, part of which was conducted in Gaelic by Rev. Mr MacLean, Church of Scotland, and Rev. A. D. MacRae (a nephew of the deceased). The English portion was conducted by the pastor of the church, Rev. A. E. Mileman. Rev. J. Menzies of the Church of Scotland conducted the service at the grave. A most impressive service was conducted by the pastor the following Sabbath evening when there was a large gathering.

Miss ALICE GRANT WILSON, EDINBURGH.

THIS elect lady, who had almost completed sixty-one years of membership of Bristo Place Church, died very suddenly on 21st March. She was one of the first to be baptised under the ministry of the late Rev. William Grant, and only two other names precede hers on the roll. For over thirty years she was Lady Superintendent of George Watson's Ladies' College, one of the largest girls' schools in the city, and as such she influenced to highest aims for a generation the stream of young life that flowed under her charge. She was greatly beloved and, although thirty years had passed since she retired from the school, tributes of affection from old pupils and teachers intermingled on her grave with those from the church. When