

"We heard Colonel Kerby's funeral sermon preached on Sunday morning last, in the church at Fort Erie, by the Rev. Elliott Grasett, M.A., the Rector. The whole service was unspeakably solemn and touching. The unbroken stillness of a summer's Sabbath-day in the country; the little church with its pulpit, reading desk, and communion table covered with mourning; the primitive psalmody suited to the occasion; the impressive discourse, which abounded in passages of pathetic eloquence; the visible emotion of the congregation; the preacher's earnest manner, who spoke as one is wont to speak who has lost a very dear friend and precious fellow-worker in the cause of God—all concurred to bring eternity distinctly before us, and to fill the mind with solemn and salutary thoughts in a manner which perhaps even the grandeur of a cathedral service could not have reached. The text was Job, xiv, 14.—'All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.' The discourse closed with a character of the deceased delineated with feeling and force. Testimonials from the Lord Bishop of Toronto, the Hon. the Chief Justice, the Hon. Chief Justice Macaulay, and the Hon. Mr. Justice Maclean were quoted by the preacher. 'He was one of the most zealous, gallant, and successful Militia officers in the Province,' that was the emphatic but well merited eulogium pronounced by the Lord Bishop of Toronto. 'I think,' wrote the Chief Justice, 'it is generally felt by those who observed his conduct at that time, that the King had no subject in the Province, who was more forward or more firm in its defence.' The preacher dwelt upon the loss sustained by the parish. 'The deceased,' he said, 'had proved in every Church undertaking a ready assistant, a judicious counselor, and a ready benefactor, not merely up to, but frequently beyond his means.' One of his last acts, as a faithful parishioner, was a munificent donation to the Sunday-School, handed to the clergyman with a few kind and encouraging words. Knowing Colonel Kerby's liberality in support of the Church's ministrations, we had taken it for granted he was a wealthy man, but it appears not, he lived and died comparatively poor. He is now, we trust, enjoying in heavenly treasure, the fruits of his self-denial. In social intercourse, the preacher stated, his manner was distinguished by perfect courtesy and suavity, whilst his disposition was kind, gentle, and eminently unselfish, thinking, as he did, but little of himself, and deriving his chief delight in seeing and making others happy. The responsibilities of domestic life were fulfilled by him with devout fidelity and warmth of heart; ever carefully consulting, as he did, the interests, temporal and eternal, of those committed to his care. In his religious course his example was worthy, in many respects, of imitation. Devoutly attached to the Church of his fathers, he exhibited at all times, the greatest zeal for her cause. He was a regular and punctual attendant on both Sundays and Holidays; an habitual communicant; and was wont to join with distinct voice and hearty emphasis in the responses. His conversation and manners in private life shewed that his religion was not confined to the temple, but that the seed of the Divine word had taken deep root in his heart and produced fruit in all holy obedience, constraining him for God's glory to let his light shine before men.

"His end, we are assured, was calm and tranquil. Owing to the sufferings of the previous night, which had been very acute, he was able to speak but little, but that little was most satisfactory, conveying as it did, explicit assurance that his hope reposed, where only a sure hope can rest, on the meritorious sacrifice of the death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"Surely the example of such a man will not be lost. Others we cannot doubt, whose privilege it has been to observe his fidelity to his earthly Sovereign, and above all to the King of Kings, will be encouraged to follow in his honourable, useful, and godly course, true to his country, and loyal to the Throne, affectionately attached to his Church, faithful and devoted to his God."

(File in the Library of Parliament, Ottawa.)