

NEWTOWN ROBINSON.

(Correspondence of The Witness.)

The uncertainty of life was probably never more clearly illustrated in this neighborhood than in the death of Mrs. Jas. Bruce, who one week ago was enjoying comparatively good health, but to-day her body moulders in the silent grave. Mrs. Bruce had almost recovered from an attack of La Grippe, when on Friday she contracted a slight cold, which manifested itself in the left ear. Soon she complained of spinal pains, which resulted in deliriousness. Intense was the suffering and most wracking the pains, until in the little finger blood poisoning appeared. Prospects of recovery became alarming, and despite the efforts of Drs. Downey, Foxton and Stevenson, the shades of death became darker, until 6.30 a. m. Tuesday, March 31st, her spirit took its flight. Mrs. Bruce was the youngest daughter of the late Robt. Downey, J. P., was born on the farm in which she died, and in early childhood evidenced in her studies considerable clearness of mind and ability to learn. At the entrance examination she was awarded the scholarship for Simcoe County, and received free tuition for one year at Bradford High School. During her course in Public and High Schools, she received several prizes for general proficiency. At Bradford she was granted a first-class certificate, and in Peel Township for three years taught very successfully. In February, 1871, she married her now bereaved and highly respected husband. She leaves an affectionate husband and an interesting family of three boys and one girl. The children are just ripening into manhood and womanhood, and at this critical point in life, necessarily need a mother's protection and direction. In early youth she became a christian and ever since has been actively identified with the Methodist Church and its work. She became interested in the "Woman's Auxiliary to Missions," and at her death was Recording Secretary of the branch here. She was a devout student of the bible, and many of her friends can testify to her clear and extensive biblical knowledge, and her power of reasoning in the holy scriptures. In secular literature of highest repute, she spent much of her leisure time, and this twofold reading gave her an intelligence, and (combined with her kind manner) attraction as a conversationist seldom surpassed. She was an affectionate wife and mother, always careful of her children's habits, and surrounding them with pious and christian influences. The fact that her presents were generally bibles or hymn books, was but the expression of her good desires, and it is the trust of all that Willie, Harry and Lillie, may always act in strict accordance with the oft-given good advice of their departed mother. On the casket was the inscription:

PHOEBE BRUCE,
Aged 42 yrs., 7 mths., 3 days.
At Rest.

The funeral to the Newtown Cemetery on Thursday afternoon was largely attended by relatives and friends from far and near. The church was heavily draped and appropriate service conducted by Rev. Mr. Savage. As the last strains of "In the Sweet Bye and Bye," died away, the friends left, for they had paid the final tribute of respect to Mrs. Jas. Bruce.