

obedience, but he does not live upon his obedience, but upon Christ and His righteousness. The almost christian is much in duty but not above it. He rests in it. He works for rest, and he rests in his works. He cannot come to believe and to obey too. If he believes, then he thinks there is no need of obedience, and so, casts off that. If he be much in obedience then he casts off believing, and thinks there is no need of that. He cannot say with David "I have hoped for thy salvation and done thy commandments." The more a man is in duty, and the more above it, the more in doing, and the more in believing, the more a christian."

Oh! brother, be assured "half way" to Christ is a dreadful place. To be "near" the life boat is different from being in it. Remember Noah's carpenters. Building the ark, beside the ark, upon the ark, not inside the ark. "Come thou and all thy house INTO the ark"—is the divine invitation—which you reject at your peril.

Lot might have been within hail of Zoar, but if not within its walls the brimstone shower had overtaken him. Remember Lot's wife. The man slayer might be within a step of the city of refuge, but if he had not passed the gates, and the avenger be at his heels, he might be stricken down on the very threshold.

Oh! Brethren "This near miss of happiness is a great misery." "Not far from the Kingdom," but not in it. To be almost persuaded to be saved, but to be "altogether lost." Shall "the children of the kingdom here be cast into the "outer darkness" when many are now coming from the east and from the west, and from the north and from the south, to sit down with Jesus and the blessed, in the Kingdom of God.

Almost persuaded now to believe,
Almost persuaded Christ, to receive,
Seems now some soul to say,
Go Spirit go, thy way,
Some more convenient day,
On thee, I'll call.

Almost persuaded, come, come, to-day,
Almost persuaded, turn not away,
Jesus invites you here, Angels are hovering near,

Prayers rise from hearts so dear
O wanderer come!

Almost persuaded,—harvest is past,
Almost persuaded,—doom comes at last,
"Almost" can not avail,
"Almost" is but to fail,
Sad, sad that bitter wail,
"Almost"——BUT LOST.



REV. DONALD SUTHERLAND has been inducted to the pastoral charge of the congregation of Gabarus.

GLEANINGS FROM THE LONDON COUNCIL

The Philadelphia Presbyterian gleans follow from the proceedings of the "Philadelphia Presbyterian Conference," held last month in London:

Dr. Dykes said that "steam" had helped to bring the brethren together—at least, make the meeting possible. One of his pithy sentences was, "We grow closer as the world gets smaller."

Dr. Morris, Moderator of our Assembly, replied to the address of welcome, and very gracefully referred to the sermon preached by his predecessor, Dr. Wilson, at the opening of the Assembly at Cleveland from the text, "Let the whole earth be filled with His glory." "Presbyterianism is nothing," said he, "unless the glory of God is its great aim and end. *Ad maiorem Dei gloriam*," is the motto of the Jesuit, but it is not spoiled by that fact, if the antagonists of the Jesuits will rebaptize it, and then work in its spirit.

A Waldensian pastor was in the Council and claimed, as he had a right to do, that he represented "the most ancient Presbyterian Church in the world," a church of which, as Dr. Thompson afterwards said, the founders had in all likelihood shaken hands with one or two of the apostles.

It was fit that the youngest church should stand up with the oldest, and Dr. Topp, of Canada, said he represented one that was only "born about a month ago." He testified that the union in Canada was an "immense advantage" to them.

"The Rev. Dr. Robinson" was announced as from the "South American Presbyterian Church." But it was our well-known countryman, Dr. Stuart Robinson, who came from this warm latitude and who appeared as the representative of the General Assembly South. He was strong for "fraternal relations" with the Presbyterian Churches "distributed over the world," and said that he regarded this "as merely the stepping-stone to the General Assembly of all the truly Christian Churches of the whole world." He evidently made a telling speech.

When the grand old missionary, Duff, came to speak, there was even increased interest. He began with a wonderful thought of what a "half a century" perhaps, he might have done." "No," said he, in pathetic words, "I am feeble and withered." But he warmed up, and his great speech ended with a prayer filled with the old fervor:

"As believers in Jehovah's holy name we ought not to be dismayed by the trials and perplexities around us."