

to his own denomination Dr. Nelles was truly catholic, ever ready to stand shoulder to shoulder with any man in Christian work. He fell asleep October 17, sixty-four years to a day from the time that with a cry he looked out upon the light of this fleeting life.

THROUGH the kindness of Mrs. Currie, we have before us two private letters from our missionary. Mr. Currie writes that he has never enjoyed better health than during the past three months. The letter bears date, *Bailunda, August, 1887*. It reads something like a romance that, "I am to take in with me a couple of dogs, about as many cats, five turkeys, three ducks," etc., as stores and guards, and a little worrying to find "on my return that a couple of goats and all my blankets with one exception had been stolen." Here, too, is a glimpse at royalty. "I gave the king my old plug hat, and put his tepoia in order, so that he was highly pleased." Our brother is still exploring, preaching as he goes, and as mails are not only few, but at times robbed, we must not wonder at the provokingly few letters received. But we forget him not, and send him this word of greeting editorially and for the churches.

SOME REFLECTIONS ON THE RECENT VISITS OF CERTAIN EVANGELISTS TO THIS CITY.

To prevent misunderstanding let this be not only ungrudgingly granted, but insisted upon, the evangelist *as distinct from the pastor* is a recognized scriptural office. (See Eph. iv. 11 ; 2 Tim. iv. 5.)

Moreover the manifest, though not acknowledged, competition of the churches and of the denominations does create the demand for a work broader than that of individual sects, and embracing all. Any evangelist, who as Mr. Moody can unite churches in a common aggressive work, should receive a hearty welcome and cordial co-operation.

There are evangelists and evangelists ; and as it used to be a stock subject in Presbyterian pulpits to expose the fallacies of Arminianism, and in the Methodist pulpits to denounce the enormities of Calvinism, so has it been a stock-in-trade with self-constituted evangelists to condemn the churches from which, humanly speaking, all their true life

has been drawn ; and to denounce the ministry who have really been their instructors in righteousness. "Cursed be he that setteth light by his father or his mother. And all the people shall say, Amen." I have nothing further to add regarding this class.

The true evangelist is a brother and a friend ; to all such I give my heart and hand as a brother in the Lord, rejoicing in their work and aiding as best we may.

I bear ungrudging testimony to the earnestness and power of the Scripture expositions and appeals of Dr. Munhall who has just finished his labours in our neighbourhood, and to the power of the service of song rendered by Mr. and Mrs. Towner, his helpers therein. Apart from the more immediate results, we anticipate other and permanent benefits for which we are thankful. May God make deeper the impressions the strong common-sense scriptural teachings in those meetings have continuously given.

Having thus unreservedly expressed our opinion of the friends who conducted these last meetings, we shall as unreservedly speak of some features for which they are in no sense responsible, but which have their lessons for the Christian public.

One feature of these meetings as they neared the close was to me ominous, the constant and urgent appeals for money. I have no false delicacy regarding money appeals. The man who is not ready to give for the Gospel has felt little of its power. But let this be noted, where some former evangelists visited this city, and by low buffoonery kept their audiences in good humour, money flowed like water into the collection plates ; the meetings were a grand success—*financially* ! There are, we find, Christian people who will more readily give for amusement—religious amusement—than for instruction.

I know there is an excuse made that thereby you draw the crowd, and they who come to laugh may remain to pray. "Let God be true and every man a liar." Think of Christ being irreverent ! Of Paul practising pulpit theatricals ! Of John playing the buffoon. Read Heb. xii. 28, and Psa. lxxxiv., where you may discern the spirit of worship. Who can stand on the edge of the pit, believing in its doom, and make a jest ?

A further reflection : These evangelistic services cost upon an average \$100 each day. The cost is