

### Scottish Preachers.

Now that the Rev. Principal Caird has gone, there is no unrivalled preacher in Scotland, and while partial opinion might single out a certain minister here and there, there is no general recognition of any preacher as the greatest pulpit orator in Scotland, in the universal sense applicable to the late principal. An Australian minister, the Rev. James Hill, M.A., however, has lately been in Scotland, and in the course of an interview at the Antipodes he makes the assertion that "the Rev. Dr. John Hunter, of Trinity Congregational Church, Glasgow, is the greatest preacher in Britain." They know comparatively little of the great Anglican preachers north of the Tweed, but in Scotland, while Dr. Hunter holds a high position for his scholarly discourses, the Rev. Dr. Whyte, of Free St. George's, Edinburgh, has a much bigger reputation as a preacher, while the Rev. A. Wallace Williamson, of St. Cuthbert's Parish Church, Edinburgh, is a more eloquent and more virile preacher than Dr. Hunter, although their style is to some extent similar, and they attract the young men and the young women of the cities with an equally strong magnetic influence. The Rev. Dr. Stalker, of St. Matthew's Free Church, Glasgow, too, is a particularly striking preacher, although not a seductive orator. His matter rather than his style commands attention, as is also the case with preachers of the calibre of Professors George A. Smith, Marcus Dods, and Denney. There was a time when the Rev. Dr. Marshall Lang, of the Barony, Glasgow, held a very high place as a pulpit and platform orator, but of late years his voice has become very deep in tone. The Rev. Dr. Macgregor, the senior minister of St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, was at one time the most "rattling" or stirring of all Scottish preachers.

### How a Pope is Elected.

It is perhaps not generally known that the immediate successor of the present Pope is already chosen. Though he will not officially be called Pope, Cardinal Luigi Oreglia, dean of the Sacred College of Cardinals, and Camarlingo of the Catholic Church, will be Pope pro tempore, and will perform the duties of the office after the death of Leo XIII. until the next Pope has been elected.

According to the regulations, the election cannot take place until after the burial of the dead Pope, which occurs ten days after his decease. There have been cases in which the election has not been finished for months, so that Camarlingo's reign may last for some time.

Leo XIII. was himself Camarlingo when he was elected to the Pontificate, but it is hardly likely that the present Camarlingo will be so fortunate.

It is the Camarlingo who formally declares the Pope dead after "kissing his

forehead three times with the silver hammer. He also breaks the seals and "Ring of the Fisherman," and then assumes the direction of affairs of the Apostolic See until the new Pope is elected.

When the election is concluded, the Cardinal dean asks the new Pontiff what name he intends to take. And after he has received the salutations of the assembled Cardinals, it is the Cardinal-Camarlingo who places on his finger the "Ring of the Fisherman." He is the actual successor of the Pope, even though temporarily.

### Temptation.

My soul, be on thy guard,  
Ten thousand foes arise,  
And hosts of sin are pressing hard  
To draw thee from the skies.

O watch and fight and pray;  
The battle ne'er give o'er;  
Renew it boldly every day,  
And help divine implore.  
—George Heath.

### The Great Wall of China.

Many writers have spoken of the great wall of China as a waste of human energy, but they are in error. From a military point of view it was of prime importance. There is no doubt that for some centuries the hordes of Mongolia were stopped in their war expeditions at the foot of this wall, which marked the southern edge of their land, for the wall was nothing more or less than an immense fortification, the greatest the world ever saw, and there were plenty of Chinese soldiers to man it. Scattered all along the top of the wall were sentinels within communicating distance of one another, and no enemy could approach without these sentinels signalling the fact all along the frontier. Every gate in the wall had its garrison, and every mountain pass through which the wall was built had its military camp. Towns were built and agriculture developed along the wall in order to supply the needs of the soldiers, and this fact in itself was a protection to China, as it increased the density of population along the frontier. The wall is now in ruins, and has ceased to be of use, but for fourteen centuries it helped to protect the empire from its northern foes.

Heathenism has been so swept away that the visitor cannot believe that those people, polite as Parisians and honest as Norwegians, were wild cannibals a generation ago. How, out of less than 112,000 Fijians, over 100,000 attend Christian worship; how, where fifty years ago there was not one Christian, there is to-day not one avowed heathen; how there are over 1,200 places of Christian worship, and not one cannibal oven or heathen temple! And yet Christian missions are "a great failure!" Is it not rather those who deem missions?—Rev. A. T. Pierson.

### The Excavation of Babylon

German archaeologists are busy with plans for the excavation of Babylon. The late Sir Austen Henry Layard, the explorer of Nineveh, was the first one to do anything in the way of excavating Babylon, then Sir Henry Rawlinson followed. The excavations, it is claimed by the Germans were done in a half-hearted way, and they are determined that their work shall be thorough. It will be very costly, and it is estimated it will occupy five years. It will be carried on by the Orient Society jointly with the directors of the Royal German Museum, and the leader of the expedition is Dr. Robert Koldewey, who has already had much experience in such work. The expeditions will start from Beirut, going from there to Aleppo, whence they will travel by caravan to Bagdad. Babylon itself is two days' journey from Bagdad, and consists of rough mounds scattered on the banks of the Euphrates, under which lie the ruins of a great city. The excavators will begin with the fortress, which is what remains of Nebuchadnezzar's palace, where Alexander died. In addition to their excavating upon the city site proper they will investigate a number of other ruins situated near.

### Dr. Samuel Johnson and Romanism.

On the Roman Catholic religion he said: "A good man of a timorous disposition in great doubt of his acceptance with God, and pretty credulous, may be glad to be of a Church where there are so many helps to get to Heaven. I would be a papist if I could. I have fear enough; but an obstinate rationality prevents me. I shall never be a papist, unless on the near approach of death, of which I have a very great terror. I wonder that women are not all papists."—Boswell's Johnson, p. 251.

Such was the shrewd old lexicographer's explanation of the success of Romanism. There are a good many people who are willing to pay for a hope of heaven. They are both timorous and credulous, and hence they invest in the Papal Soul Insurance Company that claims to be "the Church."

The varied condition of India is well illustrated when we read in one item in The Indian Witness that floods have destroyed the crops on the banks of Nerbudda River, in the next that 5.48 inches of rain fell at Cawnpur in a single night, and in the next item but one that the crops are withering from drought in the Deccan and the central portions of Madras Presidency, and also in several districts of the Punjab and Bombay Presidency. India is extensive, and presents striking contrasts in its topography and physical conditions. Many statements concerning India are misleading, because they are applied to the whole country, while they are true of only one portion.