

last week under the above heading and also Dr. Patton's views on the subject, and while I concur with some of them I ask to be allowed to give my opinion on the subject.

Does it follow that if a student carries off the highest prizes and honours in our universities, he will make the most useful and godly minister? Or does it follow that because a man rises to the highest pinnacle of fame as a lawyer, politician, physician or teacher he would have shone as bright or risen as high in the pulpit. Again, it is not from the higher stratum of society we get our foremost men and, why look to it for our ministers? Nor will we have to go to Great Britain and Ireland for ministers of intellectual power as Dr. Patton suggests. True, we were obliged to do so in times past, but not so now. Indeed, we get few if any of their foremost ministers, and these, how soon they are recalled! but on the contrary great inducements are held out to our talented men to go to the mother country. The first chairs and pulpits are offered them. And as to parents urging their most talented sons to become ministers, God has His own way of utilizing His material, and it is not often the brightest son He calls to the office of the ministry. No, give us more piety and zeal in the cause of Christ and less looking to intellectuality, and the cause will not suffer, for are we not told: "For you see your calling brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called, etc?"

MRS. A. MACLENNAN.

### STEALING SERMONS.

MR. EDITOR, One Sabbath not very long ago there was communion in the Presbyterian church in a town not one hundred miles from Toronto. A minister from a distant part of the Dominion preached the "Action Sermon." The sermon was a first-rate one; still the preaching of that sermon by him was a very mean action. It was word for word a sermon by the Rev. C. Vince of England, and may be found on page 241, vol. 2, of the "Christian World Pulpit."

It was delivered on Sabbath, of course. I don't think he was keeping the Sabbath day holy when he was all the while breaking that other commandment, "Thou shalt not steal."

The occasion was, as I said, the commemoration of our Lord's sufferings and death. Professedly this minister was remembering what Christ *did* for him. I wonder if he is a believer in Christ at all? or, if he is, does he believe He is omniscient? He tried to fool the congregation; but "all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do." Well, I was just saying he was remembering what Christ *did* for him. But he was all the time offering to the blessed Redeemer what never cost him a thought—except, perhaps, the thought of how much easier it is to steal than to make.

He had the audacity to ask the Holy Ghost to bless the Word. Surely he knew his prayer was nothing but a mockery. David said, "If I regard iniquity in my heart the Lord will not hear me." It is bad enough to lie to men, especially for ministers to do so, but when they lie to heaven *God help them* God requireth truth in the inward parts. The Lord is against ministers who do such things. Read in Jeremiah "I am against the prophets, saith the Lord, *that steal my words every one from his neighbour.*"

He was in a strange pulpit. If he were hard run at home, if sick, or anything of that sort, it would be all right for him to take another man's sermon but give it as another's and not his own take the book into the pulpit and read it like a man. But here, where he was preaching only a passing sermon, he gave that of another as *his own*. Surely there was no excuse for it, unless he had none of his own to give, or they were too poor to be delivered abroad. We don't want such men with us.

Another thing—he presumed upon the ignorance of the people. Perhaps away in that distant part of the Dominion people don't read much, but I'd just whisper to that plagiaristic brother not to presume upon the ignorance of people away from home. CRITIC.

### OBITUARY.

[The following obituary notice of the late Rev. Dr. Barrie is from the "Bruce Herald."]

On Monday, the 28th ult., the Rev. Dr. Barrie, late of Eramosa, passed from among men at the ripe age of four score. As Dr. Barrie was very widely known among the early settlers of Bruce and Grey, none of

them will grudge us the honour of laying one stone upon his grave cairn. Having known him intimately for many years, and having the great privilege of studying under him in his own manse, and often heard him in all departments of his work, we may speak with confidence of the patriarch, his life and his work. Leaving for others to write a fuller biographic memoir, we briefly sketch the outline.

Coming to Canada he did noble work for the Master, in the early days of Guelph, Elora, and many other widely scattered localities. Settling in Eramosa and enduring joyfully the many privations of a new settlement, he remained there until he retired, utterly worn out, from the ministry. One pastoral charge for life—how suggestive amid incessant change, restlessness, emptiness and failure.

As a man he had not a few eccentricities. But hear him at a death-bed, meet with him in his own study at midnight, and you forget all these in the soul earnestness of the man. As a student, whatever he threw his whole soul into he mastered thoroughly. For a thorough mastery of the great doctrines of the Bible we never met his superior in the land. Living in the quiet of Eramosa, and nothing specially to rouse him, he never took the place in Canada he easily could have taken. Yet, as it was, he had few superiors in pulpit power. In sustained eloquence, Dr. Bayne of Galt far excelled him, yet we have more than once heard Dr. Barrie reach heights of massive eloquence, when discoursing upon the attributes of God, that even Dr. Bayne could never touch. Although often unequal, yet when grasping some rich juicy text, and thoroughly warming to his subject, he was truly "the old man eloquent." Although his preaching was perhaps too often strongly doctrinal, yet there never was pulpit dulness, and certainly never pulpit weakness. And such preaching left its mark upon his congregation. In few congregations could you find so many men of intelligence, stability and sturdy independence, as were to be found in Eramosa, when Dr. Barrie retired from its pulpit. "Like priest, like people." And it was only what we would expect from such a people, that they gave him a handsome retiring allowance for life. Alas, it has not been long needed.

In scholarship broad and deep, in piety unquestioned, in self-sacrifice undoubted, in pulpit power pre-eminent, yet he has gone gone, honoured, revered, respected and beloved as few men are. And as we take our last look, it is with the feeling that he was a king among men. Many a patriarch may honestly pray.

"So let me steal away, gently and lovingly,  
Or remembered by what I have done."

And so of William Barrie. We can gratefully and lovingly say with our whole heart, "His memory is very dear and helpful." ROBERT C. MOFFAT.

PRESBYTERY OF OWEN SOUND.—This Presbytery met in Knox Church, Owen Sound, on the 15th ult. The Rev. A. Stevenson was elected Moderator for the next six months. Session Records were examined, and those not presented were ordered to be laid on the table at the next meeting of Presbytery. The Treasurer's accounts were audited and found correct. Mr. Johnston appeared in behalf of the sessions of Johnston and Daywood, asking that those congregations be not supplied by a student during the remainder of the summer. A deputation, consisting of Messrs. Mordy, Colter and Rodgers was appointed to enquire into the whole circumstances of the congregations and report at the next meeting. Mr. Mordy read a paper on the "Training of the Young," as requested at last meeting. After the paper had been fully considered, Mr. Cameron moved, seconded by Mr. Rodgers, "That the Presbytery thanks Mr. Mordy for his excellent paper on the 'Instruction of the Young,' the Presbytery further takes this opportunity of affirming the important truth that the great business of teaching and training the young is best done at the fireside and under the eye of the parents, and in the Sabbath schools of our Church under the care of Sessions; but at the same time the Presbytery would here strongly assert that the Bible should have that place secured for it in our Public and High Schools, which is accorded to it in our excellent Education Act, and that ministers, elders and members of the Presbyterian Church within our bounds be hereby urged to do all they can legitimately to help forward the movement now on foot, which aims at having the Bible read at least once a day in all our Public Schools." The motion was unanimously agreed to.

The Moderator enquired in what congregations collections had been taken up for defraying expenses of delegates to the General Assembly. It was found that most of the congregations had taken up collections and that the rest would do so. Papers were read intimating that the Rev. Wm. Forrest was allowed to retire from the active work of the ministry by the Assembly, but that the Assembly had delayed action in reference to application of Mr. Morrison until such time as evidence is furnished as to the age or infirmity of the applicant. According to permission of the General Assembly, Mr. D. Bannerman, a student who has finished his course of study in Knox College, was taken on trial for license. He was examined in the subjects prescribed, and the examination being satisfactory he was licensed by the Presbytery to preach the Gospel wherever in the Providence of God his lot might be cast. Mr. Currie presented his scheme for Presbyterial visitation, which with a few amendments was adopted by the Presbytery. Mr. Somerville read his Home Mission Report, the recommendations of which were adopted. Mr. Colter was appointed to correspond with ministers within the bounds in reference to collections for the various schemes of the Church. Presbytery adjourned to meet in Knox Church, on Tuesday, Sept. 16th, at half-past one p.m. — J. SOMERVILLE, M.A., Pres. Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF MANITOBA. This Presbytery met in Knox Church, Winnipeg, when the following were present: Rev. Mr. McKellar, Moderator; Dr. Black, Rev. Messrs. Scott, W. R. Ross, Campbell, Matheson, Donaldson, McKellar, Bryce, Bell, Smith, Cameron and Robertson, and Messrs. A. Polson, R. Sutherland, Burnside, and D. U. Campbell. The Rev. Mr. Patterson and Messrs. S. Polson, Lawrence, McGregor and Goldie, missionaries, were also present. The following officers were elected: Moderator, Rev. Allen Bell; treasurer, Rev. Prof. Bryce; clerk, Rev. Mr. Robertson. The following Committees were appointed:—Home Mission Committee, Foreign Mission Committee, Finance and Statistics, Sabbath Schools, Church Property, Temperance, State of Religion, Sabbath Observance. The Presbytery appointed deputations to visit the several stations in connection with the support of ordinances. Rev. Mr. Smith gave a very interesting account of the Little Saskatchewan district, and of his labours there. Mr. Goldie spoke of the Big Plain and Beautiful Plain district. The Presbyterian population in these districts appears to be very large, and the Presbytery felt the importance of doing more at once to supply the people with services. The Presbytery expressed satisfaction with the work done by this gentleman. A letter from Rev. Mr. Roddick, accompanied by a Presbyterial certificate, was read, and action in the meantime was deferred, owing to the state of the mission fund. Certain cases of Sabbath desecration having been brought before the Presbytery, the matter was remitted to the Committee on Sabbath Observance to take such action as the circumstances may require. The Home Mission Committee was instructed to secure another missionary at once for the C.P.R., and that until such missionary is appointed, the Home Mission Committee be instructed to arrange with Rev. Mr. Cameron for the supply of the west end of Contract 42. The Home Mission report was read and dealt with. It was agreed that all congregations and mission stations connected with the Presbytery be requested to take up a collection in aid of the Presbyterial fund on the first Sabbath of September or the first convenient Sabbath thereafter. Owing to the expense connected with the work of the Presbytery, a minimum rate of fifteen cents per member was agreed on, and all congregations and mission stations were instructed to remit to the Treasurer of the Presbytery, Prof. Bryce. The necessary arrangements for the opening of the Roseau mission school were entrusted to the Finance Committee of Presbytery. On motion of Dr. Black, seconded by Mr. Cameron, the clerk was instructed to give the Rev. Mr. Patterson a letter commending him to such members of the Presbyterian Church as he may visit on his way across the continent to the Pacific coast. Mr. Patterson bears a letter of regular dismissal from the English Presbyterian Church. It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Presbytery in Knox Church, Winnipeg, on the third Wednesday of September and at the hour of ten a.m. Mr. McKellar and western ministers were anxious to have the meeting at High Bluff, but owing to the very important business coming up at the September meeting and Winnipeg being more central, the majority favoured the capital.