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CURRENT TOPICS.

REV. W. L. WOTHERSPOON, senior minister of Kilspondie and Rait, died at Hamilton on 3rd inst.

BUCHAN Presbytery have sustained a call from Fetterangus congregation to Rev. David Conchie.

LOCKERBIE Presbytery are going to remonstrate with the military authorities for sending the volunteers home from Minto camp on a Sabbath.

A TELEGRAM from Shanghai announces the murder of Messrs. Wikholm and Johansson, Swedish missionaries, in a riot at Sungpu, 100 miles north-east of Hankow.

LOCHABRON Presbytery have instructed their clerk to write to Rev. D. Macdonald of Shieldaig to inquire whether the report of his having seceded from the Church is true.

MR. G. A. BARCLAY, one of the directors of the Carubbers Close mission in Edinburgh, has been appointed organizing secretary of the Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society.

THE election of a minister for the first charge at Dunfermline was conducted by ballot in a manner similar to that of a parliamentary election. The voting took place in the session-house between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., and between 6 and 8.30 p.m.

AS £50,000 has now been received at the Mansion-House, in answer to the appeal of the Lord Mayor of London, for the widows, orphans, and dependent relatives of the men lost in H.M.S. Victoria, the fund has now been closed, except in cases where collections are being made and have not been remitted.

MOFFAT congregation celebrated the first anniversary of the opening of the new church, by a service on Sabbath forenoon conducted by Dr. Gibson, Perth. In the afternoon a jubilee service took place. The office-bearers of the United Presbyterian Church were associated with those of the congregation.

REV. JAMES BARCLAY, D. D., of Montreal, formerly of St. Cuthbert's parish church, Edinburgh, conducted the forenoon service on Sabbath in Newington church, Edinburgh (Rev. W. Whyte Smith's).

EDINBURGH Presbytery's committee on Disestablishment in their annual report remark upon the generosity of Sir Charles Cameron's bill towards the Established Church, but express the opinion that religious equality would be a boon warranting some sacrifice.

PAISLEY Presbytery have adopted a resolution that the work at ordinations and inductions be divided, and that gown and bands be worn. Rev. Mr. McLelland, the mover, referred to the incongruousness of a young minister giving the address of advice.

A PRIEST in Italy who had been interfering in elections, and threatening with spiritual punishment parishioners who opposed him, has been tried by jury and fined 500 francs, sent to jail for two months and 16 days, and debarred from exercising his office in Italy for five years.

LIBERAL provision has been made by the late Mr. John Hope for the education of Mr. John Muirhead for the ministry. He is to study in France and Germany for four years, but is not to read or listen to foreign theological literature. £500 is to be paid to him on his induction.

REV. J. L. SKERRET of Cathedral-square church, Glasgow, has been presented by the members of his theological class with twenty-one volumes of a very valuable theological work as a mark of their esteem and appreciation of his services as their teacher in the study of systematic theology.

THE residue of Mr. John Hope's estate is to be applied to the same purposes as the estate he set aside a few years ago, viz.: to oppose Popery and Ritualism. Rev. Jacob Primmer of Townhill, and Rev. D. Jamieson, of Ballingry, are among the trustees, and the former is left £1,000 and the latter £500.

REV. JOHN HUNTER, of Crieff, referring in Auchterarder Presbytery to the first call to Rev. Robert Young, which Rev. Dr. Henderson displayed at a jubilee meeting, claimed it as the property of the Presbytery, and said that the despised Michael Todd and Peter Clark, who alone signed it, were now represented by a congregation of over 800 members.

REV. JAMES LAING, M. A., of Stonehouse, died on 7th inst. in his 65th year. A native of Aberdeen, he was ordained to Lesmahagow in 1855. Thence after fifteen years' labour, he was translated successively to the West church, Glasgow; Bermondsey church, London; and Stonehouse. He excelled in the pulpit. The minister at Dysart is his eldest son.

THE Duke of Fife seems to be getting rid of all his landed property in Scotland. He has just concluded the sale of another of his estates, that of Carskellie in Banffshire, and with it goes the salmon fishing on the Deveron. The Duke will not feel the loss, as there is no house there, while it will be a distinct gain to the new purchaser, Colonel Foster Forbes, of Rothiemay, as it rounds off his own estate which adjoins it.

REPORTS from the different parts of Scotland regarding the prospects of sport on the "Twelfth" are of a very favourable character, and show that the forthcoming season will be one of the best that has been experienced for some years. Grouse are not only numerous, but they are strong and healthy, and there is no appearance of disease. Other winged game are reported to be plentiful and healthy; and stags are said to be in splendid condition.

SIR MICHAEL CONNALL, one of Glasgow's leading citizens, died on 6th inst. at his country residence of Parkhall, Stirlingshire, in his seventy-sixth year. A produce broker, he early in life found time for serving his generation in philanthropic and religious work. Latterly education was his absorbing interest, the school board having had him for chairman for nine years. On demitting that office in 1885 he was knighted. An elder for many years in St. James' church, he was the founder of the Spoutmouth Bible Institute.

THE Benedictine Monks, whose headquarters are at Fort Augustus, in Inverness-shire, have added to their landed possessions in the beautiful neighborhood by acquiring from Colonel Hastings Fraser the lovely property of Ardachie. The property, which is 1800 acres in extent, includes a romantic glen, and will afford the monks, or if they are not inclined to such worldly pleasures, the friends of the monks, three miles of trout fishing on the river Tarff, and also of Loch Ness—besides good shooting, with occasional roe deer to vary the usual bag of grouse and hares.

A PARAGRAPH has been going round the papers which states that the Queen has invited the Duke and Duchess of York to visit her at Balmoral next month "for the grouse shooting." The Duke and Duchess are going abroad when they leave Cowes, and they are likely to be in Scotland before the middle of September, when they will no doubt pay a brief visit to the Queen at Balmoral, and afterwards to Braemar, where they are to be the guests of the Duke and Duchess of Fife. The grouse shooting will then be over, but as a matter of fact there are very few grouse at Balmoral, the sporting features of the Royal domain being the deer-stalking in the forests, the salmon fishing in the Dee, and the drives for roe deer in the Birkhall and Aberfeldie woods.—Truth.