

## Ecclesiastical News.

**SIR ALEXANDER GRANT**, the Principal of Edinburgh University is dead. The Earl of Stair has been elected Chancellor of the University of Glasgow in room of the Duke of Buccleugh, deceased; and Professor Lushington has been elected Lord Rector, in room of late Hon. Henry Fawcett, M.P. Dr. Lushington succeeded Sir Daniel Sandford as Professor of Greek in the University of Glasgow about forty-five years ago, and retired from the duties of the chair some ten year since. He has the reputation of being a first-rate scholar, and in every sense a man of culture and refinement. It is said that this is the only instance of a Professor of the College being raised to the dignity of the Rectorship, with the exception of Adam Smith, the father of the science of Political Economy, and author of the "Wealth of Nations." It appears Mr. Fawcett's visit to Glasgow had been eagerly looked for, as he had not yet delivered his inaugural address at the time of his decease. Dr. A. F. Mitchell, Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of St. Andrew's, has been nominated as Moderator of Next General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and Dr. David Brown, Principal of the Free Church College, Aberdeen, as Moderator of the Free Church. They are both good men and eminent in their respective spheres. An English publisher recently asked his readers, mostly clergymen, to indicate by vote the ten greatest English-speaking preachers of the day. The largest number of votes were given to the following:—Canon Liddon, C. H. Spurgeon, Joseph Parker, Alexander Maclaren, Canon Farrar, Henry Ward Beecher, Bishop McGee, Knox Little, Bishop Carpenter, and R. W. Dale. Five of these men belong to the Church of England, and five to other Churches. None of them Presbyterian, but Talmage was the Presbyterian who received the highest vote.

*The Christian Leader* makes mention of a remarkable quartette of Free Church Patriarchs,—Rev. Dr. Beith of Stirling, in his 83th year,—a noted pulpit orator in his day; Rev. David Dewar, of Fochabers, who is also 88—the sole survivor of the Strathgogie heroes; Rev. George Mackay of Inverness, said to be even older, who yet dispenses with an assistant and preaches three times a day to a congregation of a thousand!; and the Rev. David Waters of Burghhead, in his 94th year, and in full possession of his mental faculties. Rev. Dr. A. N. Somerville of Glasgow is doing the work of an evangelist in Greece, accompanied by his son, Rev. J. E. Somerville, late of Broughty Ferry. The opinion is freely expressed that the "Begg Party" in the Free Church, is breaking up, if indeed it has not already ceased to exist. The members of Dr. Begg's Congregation at Newington are still at loggerheads.

The proposal to alter the formula subscribed by ministers and elders of the Presbyterian Church of England at their ordination has given

rise to a keen discussion in the Presbytery of London. The difference is this, that by the proposed change, candidates instead of giving unqualified assent to every statement contained in the Confession of Faith, should be required to concur in the "system of doctrine" contained in it. Dr. Dykes moved that the Presbytery approve of the change suggested. Dr. Fraser said that a relaxation of the formula was the easiest of all plans, and the most dangerous of all. We ought to approach this matter with a conservative bias. The country was full of men who set themselves up for teachers, and seemed to understand nothing clearly, and believe nothing definitely. We had to guard against opening our doors for the admission of such, who would be the ruin of any church. Mr. Robert Whyte held that we ought to stand on a clear and honest ground, and this we could not do while we bound ourselves to the whole Confession, which embraced some points which the whole world knew we did not believe. 37 voted with Dr. Dykes, and 32 the contrary. In accord with the spirit of the times, an organic union of the Welsh Calvinistic Methodists with the Presbyterian Church of England is talked of. They claim to be Presbyterians even as the others are. They were represented in the Belfast Council by just double the number of delegates that came from the English Church. Dr. Torrance, a young medical man, has gone to Tiberias, the first missionary of the Free Church in Palestine. Out of the last graduating class at Princeton, N. J., eight young men went to the Foreign Mission field direct. Rev. E. P. Hammond, the well-known American evangelist, has arrived in London with a view of entering upon Christian work in whatever form it may present itself to him. His visit to Britain sixteen years ago has not yet been forgotten, and in the meantime he has not been idle. At St. Louis, where he last was, some 4000 attended his farewell meeting and testified to the value of his ministrations. Our good friend D. writes as follows:—

**WEST OF SCOTLAND.**—The Commissions of the General Assemblies have just held their autumn meetings. As a rule these gatherings have not much to make them of public interest, but this year each had its special topic. In the Established Church, the vexed question of the Calcutta mission was up again, the reason being that for some time past the Rev. W. Hastie, formerly Principal of our Educational Institution there, has challenged some statements about himself in last Assembly by Drs. Phin, Scott and Story, as being objectionable, and injurious to his standing as a minister. In addition to this, however, Mr. Hastie has published a pamphlet preferring charges against a restored missionary of such a nature that to solve the difficult and irritating question, the Commission have suggested the appointment of a delegation of ministers and others who have remained hitherto outside the matter. Dr. Lees proposed that Mr. Hastie should be sent with the delegates, but it seemed too huge a joke. In the Free Church Commission, Dr. Rainy made a very decided contribution towards the solution of the Crofter question in the Isle of