

## BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

Day by day the Conference grew in fervency of spirit. The unity of all Christians, irrespective of sectarian creeds, became the keystone. Differences of opinion or belief on non-essentials were forgotten. Only one thing—the making Christ known to the heathen world—was discussed.

Miss Usher, who has been a W.M.A. missionary at Amoy since 1898, is engaged to be married to the Rev. Duncan Ferguson, one of the English Presbyterian Church's missionaries in the Island of Formosa.

At the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce Sir John Primrose stated that the plans were in preparation for a dry dock at Glasgow to accommodate the largest Dreadnoughts.

At a graduation ceremony in Arts in connection with Edinburgh University, honorary degrees in law were conferred on, amongst others, Lieutenant-General Sir R. Baden-Powell, Lord Hugh Cecil, M.P., and Mr. J. Avon Clyde, K.C., M.P. Four honorary divinity degrees were also bestowed.

The Principal and Fellows of Jesus College, Oxford, have elected the Right Hon. David Lloyd George, M.P., to be an Hon. Fellow of the College. It will be remembered that the university two years ago conferred the Hon. Degree of D.C.L. on Mr. George.

An injunction was granted in the Chancery Division restraining the Lancashire and Cheshire Miners' Federation and the Havannah and Southport Branch of the Federation from applying funds for the maintenance of Labour members in Parliament.

In consequence of a recent decision of the High Courts the authorities of the elementary schools at Rainsgate have resolved to insure all the scholars against accident. There were severe criticisms when the proposal first came forward, but on it being explained that the premiums for about 4,000 children came to only £10 a year, the proposal went through without a division, the only member who protested saying that the whole proposal was absurd in the extreme.

The annual festival of the Linlithgow Presbyterian choir unions took place in Bathgate Parish Church on the 11th of June. Over 300 choristers took part.

As compared with Dr. Dawson Burns' estimate for 1906, England drank one-half less whiskey and Scotland and Ireland nearly one-half less during the financial year ended March 31st last.

It was 100 years ago on the 5th of June since Andrew Bonar was born. The famous trio of brothers, Horatius, John and Andrew, was familiar to the worshippers of St. Andrew's, Greenock, particularly at Communion, when one brother would occupy the pulpit in the morning, the other in the afternoon, and the third in the evening.

Rev. Dr. Brown, ex-moderator of the Irish General Assembly, and, with one exception, the oldest clergyman in the Irish Presbyterian Church, died at his residence, Limavady, June 22, in his 90th year.

There is no place in Ireland which is deserving of more honor in the history of the Presbyterian Church than the old town of Carrickfergus, on the shores of Belfast Lough. Although the prosperity to which at one time Carrickfergus seemed destined has been yielded up to Belfast, the former still preserves its old world dignity, and its ancient castle, looking across the lough, is a reminder to all who pass in the steamer as it makes its way to Belfast, of the departed glories of the little town.

China has forbidden the marriage of her subjects with foreigners, pointing out that such unions rarely turn out happily. The prohibition is aimed at the male Chinese, there being very few instances of female Chinese marrying with foreigners.

The United States cotton mills are curtailing their output by reducing their operative capacity from 50 to 65 per cent. The South Carolina Mills alone have 3,600,000 spindles idle. The object of the combine is to keep up prices; the operatives go idle.

Political complications in Denmark are serious. Some two months ago an election was held and the government policy for a reorganization of the national diet and the amendment of the defense bill of 1909, was defeated. Difficulties in the way of forming a new ministry prevented the resignation of the cabinet, and at the request of his Majesty, the ministers retained their portfolios for the time being. Now they have resigned and their resignations have been accepted.

As a memorial to the late King, it is proposed to effect improvements at Chichester Infirmary to cost £20,000, of which £10,000 has been promised by a donor who desires to remain anonymous.

A National Conference of Charity Organization Societies was held at Leeds. Nearly 200 delegates attended from all parts of the kingdom.

## MONTREAL.

On Sunday morning last the congregation of Erskine church had an opportunity of listening to the minister who occupied their pulpit thirty-six years ago. Although new generations have arisen since that time, there are still many who remember Dr. Monro Gibson, and who heard this grand old man of the Presbyterian church.

Dr. Gibson is now the minister at the St. John's Wood Church, London, England. He is visiting this continent for the purpose of attending many of the conferences which have been taking place in different parts of America, and to greet old friends and see the changes which have taken place since his pastorate here.

Dr. Gibson expressed himself to the 'Witness' as being glad to note the strong movement in Canada towards Church Union; the opposition he considered, though fairly strong, had few grounds to justify their stand, and he hoped the advocates of union would have speedy and lasting success.

In matters of politics in England, he avowed himself a staunch Free Trader; he believed the cause of tariff reform was dead. It was evident from his remarks that he is a thorough supporter of the present Government.

Many changes have taken place in Montreal since the veteran preacher was a figure on our streets. "Then," he said, "the population, I believe, was under 150,000, and now you say it is nearly 600,000. Yesterday I went for a drive up the mountain; many is the time I have climbed the mountain in the old days, but now you have that wonderful drive. Surely it is the finest drive in the world! I have travelled considerably in all parts and I have never seen anything finer. And Point St. Charles. Dear, dear me! it looked dirtier and more hopeless than ever as I came through in the train.

The temperance movement, Dr. Gibson thought, did not progress in England as it does here. This was probably due to the fact that in a new country it is possible to bend the twig in the way it should go, whilst in England things are more firmly settled. 'Besides,' he continued, 'the rights of the minority should also be considered. It is unfair for the majority to take any action unless they are a very powerful majority indeed, and it would be a long time before you could get such a majority for prohibition in England.'

Dr. Gibson was particularly struck with the magnificent houses many Montrealers are erecting. "It shows that the city has grown in wealth as well as size," he said. "But I think some of these wealthy people must be very extravagant."

The board of management of Stanley Street Church have now in view the securing of a preacher to fill the pulpit vacated by the Rev. Dr. Dewey, who becomes now Pastor Emeritus. The Committee are looking for a suitable man and intend carrying on the work right where they are or possibly in the event of a suitable offer being made for the property they might sell and build elsewhere. The church is out of debt and not obliged to sell. Several rumors are in the air, of amalgamation with some of the other churches in the city, but in the meantime all the activities of the church are moving along. This congregation is supported entirely by voluntary offerings of the people. The service is a plain one, and there is good hearty congregational singing, and the congregation has been noted for its interest in missions and has always been open to the various movements for the uplift of Christian people. The Keswick Conventions for the deepening of spiritual life have always been held there. The Rev. Dr. Dewey whose retirement was deeply regretted owing to ill-health is now in Scotland. From latest accounts he is making satisfactory progress towards recovery, and his return will be welcomed by the Christian people of Montreal generally.

There was a very large attendance in St. Enoch's Church, Belfast, on a recent Sunday evening, to hear Rev. Robert Johnston, M.A., D.D., of Montreal.

## OTTAWA.

The will of the late George Hay, Ex-President of the Bank of Ottawa, has just been filed for probate. The estate amounts to \$345,494. The sum of \$10,000 is left to the Presbyterian Church, in Canada; to Knox Church, Ottawa; \$1,000; to the County of Carleton General Hospital, \$1,000; to the Orphans' Home, Ottawa, \$500; to the Old Men's Home, Ottawa, \$500; to the Ottawa Auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, \$500. The remainder of the estate, after paying legacies to the amount of \$12,000, and succession duties goes to the widow and sons and daughters of the deceased.

What is grace? Grace is more than a negation, more than a stopping of the enmity of God, more than favor, more than sentiment. Grace is a thing of energy. Look in the Bible—wherever you find grace mentioned. Grace is the divine energy of holiness issuing in the ministry of love, in quest of the unlovely, that it might by the communication of itself transform the unlovely into its own loveliness.

It was a wise and kindly voice that reminded the early New Testament confessors that "evil communications corrupt good manners." It is a friendly voice that would give this reminder to his fellow disciples of this generation—with the suggestion that very much of the reading found in the daily newspapers circulating among them comes under the head of "evil communications." The application of this undeniable fact is left to them.

Daily conquests of evil develop character. All the enemies of our soul can not be met and vanquished in one battle. There must be struggles and victories day after day. Constant practice of the right is the only sure defeat for the wrong. There are peculiar temptations to relax our vigilance and suspend the struggle in these days of summer. But it is true of the soul's peace, as it is true of civil liberty, "eternal vigilance is the price" we must pay.