

TRIBUTE TO GOOD MAN.

On the 19th inst., a tablet to the memory of the late Rev. Dr. W. A. MacKay was unveiled in Woodstock, Chalmers' Church. It is of brass, and bears the following simple inscription:—"In memoriam to Rev. W. A. MacKay, B.A., D.D., born in Zorra, March 11, 1842; died in Woodstock, November 28, 1905; for 28 years the faithful and beloved pastor of this congregation."

The tablet is the gift of the congregation.

Rev. R. G. McBeth, M.A., of Paris, assisted by Rev. Dr. McMullen of Woodstock, conducted the service. Rev. Mr. McBeth in an impressive address reviewed briefly the life and work of the late pastor. He said, "The best monument was a man's life-work; and it was so in this case; but it was well that for succeeding generations some special mark should remain in the church building as an indication of the good their former pastor had done. Dr. MacKay was a man of strength, and like all strong men had doubtless his critics. So has every man who tries to make the world purer and better. But he had been a man of tenderness also, having the combination of strength and tearful sympathy so often found in the heart of a Highlander."

Dr. MacKay had made his own way in life, even as the Zorra pioneers had cleared room for their homes in the forests of the early days. The best men were developed in struggles, and the young lad who had wealth without the grace of God was of no value in history. It was not men like Jay Gould but men like Abraham Lincoln, the rail splitter that made the United States influential; not Carnegie but Burns and Carlyle that made Scotland famous. Our fathers lived the simple life, and the honest old stonemason, Alexander Mackenzie was a higher ideal in public affairs than millionaire manipulators.

Dr. MacKay had a creed, and creeds make men strong and fearless. Calvinism was not a soft creed, but it had produced heroes in civil and religious struggles. When men of that type had a political creed they would not follow leaders who abandoned principles.

Dr. MacKay's great work for temperance would abide as a goodly contribution to the country's history. The liquor traffic was a destroyer, and once the fact of the preciousness of life was realized the business would perish under the indignation of the people. It was wanton waste in the community and even on the bare ground of economies would have to go. Men like Dr. MacKay had forced the question into politics and it would stay there till it was settled. For that hour is not far distant. It was our duty, concluded the speaker, to carry on in all lines the good work of devoted men.

A portion of Psalm 103 was then sung, after which Rev. Dr. McMullen spoke briefly and interestingly, heartily endorsing Mr. MacBeth's remarks.

Rather more than \$30 would be the amount that every inhabitant of Great Britain would receive if all the actual coin were divided.

According to the brokers of Mark Lane, people eat twenty per cent. more bread when the weather is cold than when it is mild.

Birds of prey are able to look at the sun without being dazzled, because there is a membrane under their eyelids which they can draw down at will.

Mozart died in debt 3,000 guilder (£200), and could not afford a grave; so with all the monuments erected to his memory, nobody knows where his remains are, for he was thrown into a common pauper's grave.

Amsterdam is the city which is said to be built on herring bones, but the Dutch herring fishery, which was once of immense proportions, has in modern times been quite overshadowed by that of Scotland, which is now by far the largest in the world.

DEVELOPMENT OF FORMOSA BY JAPAN.

The development by Japan of the island of Formosa lying about 100 miles north of the Philippine group, is discussed somewhat at length by two publications of the Japanese government, which have just reached the Department of Commerce and Labor through the Bureau of Statistics, one entitled "Japan in the Beginning of the Twentieth Century," and the other "Fifth Financial and Economical Annual of Japan."

These show that Formosa, which was subjected to military government for a short time after its transfer from the control of China to that of Japan, was in 1906 given a civil government directed by the Government of Japan. A single great military expedition sent throughout the island terminated hostilities among the natives, except as to the small element known as the "Head-Hunters" in the inaccessible forests of the interior, who will probably submit only when their hanters are invaded through the spread of civilization. The foremost requisite to effective control was communication. Thus far about 1,200 miles of road have been built. A line of railway 232 miles long was constructed from near the southern to the northern extremity of the island, being opened to traffic throughout its length on May 15, 1905. Postoffices were established, their number in 1903-4 being 117, with 7,608 miles of postal routes, and the number of pieces of mail handled in 1903-4 being 13,792,551 against 5,237,279 in 1896-7. In 1903-4 the telegraph lines, 908 miles long, delivered 1,027,471 messages, while the telephone lines, 307 miles long, delivered 3,378,267 messages.

Education, the distinguishing feature of modern Japan, received immediate attention. The system is divided into three departments, according to the three classes of the population: (1) Japanese immigrants (42,124); (2) Chinese settlers and their descendants (2,788,633); (3) Malay aborigines (94,315). For the Japanese immigrants 60 teachers are provided, whose pupils in 1904 numbered about 2,000. The Chinese have 130 schools, with 521 teachers and about 18,000 pupils. Besides these there are about 1,800 "family schools" of the old style, with some 32,000 pupils. The medical school at Taihoku, with instruction conducted in Japanese, has 130 students, with a five-year course. The National Language School is intended to teach Japanese to the native children and the native languages to Japanese children, and it also comprises a technical course. The normal school trains native youths as teachers of native primary schools. A number of graduates have already been turned out. Five main schools and 11 branch schools have been established for the aborigines. In addition to these there are missionary schools, both Christian and Buddhist, as well as a museum and a library.

Hygiene received immediate and careful attention. Numerous artesian wells were provided, supplying pure drinking water for the inhabitants, more than 800 such wells being located in the district of Taihoku, which comprises about one-tenth of the population. In the capital of that district extensive waterworks were built. Sewerage was introduced in a number of cities. Nine large towns have hospitals, many smaller places have branch establishments of that kind, and more than 200 physicians are practicing on the island.

To those of us who have not realized the antagonism between Freemasonry and Roman Catholicism, the vehemence of the attack made on President Roosevelt, by the New World, a Catholic Organ of Chicago, for allowing the corner stone of the House office building to be laid with Masonic ceremonies, is astonishing. The editor calls Masonry a "diabolical influence," and the ceremony in question, a "gloating outrage," and "the most notorious official insult that has ever been levelled in the United States against our church."

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

The recent forest fires in Australia were the most destructive on record there.

The Prince of Wales is sending two fine young tigers to the Dublin Menagerie. It is announced that the wedding of King Alfonso will take place on May 21st.

Ayr Established Presbytery will petition in favor of the bill to prevent juvenile smoking.

The Churches Commission have awarded the church at Grantown to the United Free Church.

There is being witnessed the greatest boom in the Irish linen trade since the American War.

The Samoan residence of Robert Louis Stevenson, Vaillima, runs a chance of becoming a tourist hotel.

The German Emperor has presented three silver watches and 20 pounds sterling to Albroth lifeboatmen.

Robert Bruce's sword, with the date 1322 on the hilt, has been purchased by a London dealer for 40 pounds sterling.

The House of Commons now begins the experiment of working 8 1/2 hours a day without a break for meals.

Rev. Nigel MacNeill, L.L.D., London, contemplates the early publication of a "Dictionary of Highland Biography."

A pair of robins have invaded a joiner's shop at Kilnaboy, and have adopted a corner of a cupboard as a bedroom.

Strangers in Greenock are now directed to the Old West Kirk and Highland Mary's grave by notice fixed to one of the tramway poles.

Rev. R. W. Dolbie, of Glasgow, says he knows a hundred publicans who would be glad to clear out of "the trade" if they got 1,000 pounds sterling to do so.

Archbishop Smith, Roman Catholic Metropolitan of Scotland, has addressed a circular to the clergy urging immediate action to oppose the Education Bill.

Lord Dundonald, in the House of Lords on the 14th inst., urged the compulsory training of all the youth of the Empire in military discipline and use of the rifle.

The Viceroy of Canton has paid to the United States \$50,000 as indemnity for the destruction of Presbyterian mission property during the riots in Lien Chow last October.

Since whaling operations started in Shetland about a dozen whales have been captured. Whales are reported plentiful on the coast, but as yet are difficult to capture.

On the Congo, which in some parts is 25 miles across, small ships may pass without sighting one another. The Congo is considered the most wonderful waterway in the world.

Twelve millions of Australian money have come to London for investment within the last two years because Australians are so uneasy over existing and contemplated Socialistic legislation.

Lord Elgin has been Lord-Lieutenant of Fife for some 20 years. Broomhall is his principal Scottish seat, but he also owns property in his titular country, having some years ago purchased Dunphail House, near Forres.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, at a banquet to some visiting Australian merchants in London on the 8th inst., made a strong plea for commercial union in the Empire, but such union he believed could only come about by good will and voluntary agreement.

Sir William Dunn, formerly member of Parliament for Paisley, has given \$250,000 to the English Presbyterian Church. One of the objects to which it is to be applied is the foundation of a new Chair of Theology at Westminster College, Cambridge.

The Postmaster-General of New Zealand, Sir Joseph G. Ward, is one of the ablest and most indefatigable advocates of cheap postage. He is a firm believer in universal penny postage, and his address in favor of it was one of the features of the recent postal congress at Rome.