

Rev. Dr. Robertson's Death.

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or of its great possibilities in the future, and how these could be most wisely advanced than had Dr. Robertson. Then, no one who has watched his work, could but be struck with, and at once admit his great executive ability. We would claim for him a place in this respect, not second to that of the ablest minister in the Dominion Cabinet. Many of the measures which he devised and executed, or saw that they were executed for the benefit and building up of the church of Christ throughout the North West, will at once occur to the minds of those who know the work of our church. His reports, and comparative statements from year to year of how the work was progressing, were luminous, and to a sympathetic mind stimulating and inspiring.

To pass from these, in his personal intercourse with the missionaries in all the west, with students, with associates and colleagues among the leaders of our church's work, he was genial, urbane, tactful while wielding authority, and being yielded to by the force of his character, and the manifest singleness of his motives and devotion to the cause which he had at heart. In all our intercourse with the men with whom Dr. Robertson had to come in contact we have never heard but words of commendation and love and brotherliness. Every hard working missionary, and missionary's wife, and thousands beside who went out to our North West and struggled with the difficulties to be encountered in every new land, poverty, loneliness, disappointment, temptation, but felt they had in Dr. Robertson a friend, and who can tell what a support and uplifting force he was to more of such than anyone knows. That will only come to light in the great final reckoning day.

It is hard often to say when any loss is really irreparable. But these are several respects in which the loss caused by Dr. Robertson's death is irreparable, at least, at present. Who can command the confidence of our church, so as to be its leader in all that concerns its advancement in the west as Dr. Robertson could? Who has the fullness and the accuracy of knowledge of all that pertains to the west that he had? Who can appeal to our church, with a greater of a century's splendid, successful, devoted labour behind it as he could and did? Who has a name known far and wide as his was, not only in Canada but in Britain, in connection with one of the grandest of Home Mission fields that any church has ever had? Who can present to our church such a noble and inspiring example of zeal and labour in Home Mission work as was to be seen in time? In time, several men may supply his place, and mayhap, truly fill it, but at this moment, we believe that the feeling throughout the church will be one of deepest bereavement, and that in the death of our beloved superintendent of missions in the North West, our loss is truly irreparable. May the Great Head of the Church, whose resources are infinite and inexhaustible, speedily for Zion's sake, and for His own name's sake, raise up one, or many, who it they cannot fill the vacant place, will be animated by the same spirit of devotion to His Master's service as was His noble servant whom He has called to his rest and reward.

Ottawa.

Rev. Dr. Armstrong has returned from Millbrook, where he spent New Year's.

The regular meeting of the Ottawa Presbytery was held in Bank street church on the 7th instant.

Rev. John McNicol occupied the pulpit of St. Paul's last Sunday, preaching with much acceptance at both services.

At the communion service in Erskine church, last Sabbath, twelve new members were received, making a total of 80 for the past twelve months.

The annual meeting of the congregation of the Stewart Presbyterian church will be held on Tuesday night the 14th instant; and the annual Sunday school festival on Friday, the 17th inst.

The annual Sunday school entertainment of Knox church was largely attended. Tea was served the children at half-past five and over two hundred sat down to tea. Mr. S. J. Jarvis, the superintendent, presided, and a good programme of gramophone selections, songs and magic lantern slides was given. Songs were sung by Misses Waters and Clark, Mr. Fixture and others. Mr. S. J. Jarvis was in charge of the magic lantern.

Rev. J. W. H. Milne, in the Glebe Church, last Sunday, preached an excellent New Year's sermon, the subject being "Individual Responsibility." Next Sunday he will continue his course on "Things That Cannot Be Shaken." The annual meeting of the church will take place on January 17, when the young people will entertain the congregation.

The Ladies' Aid of Erskine church elected the following officers: President, Mrs. John Whitton; secretary, Mrs. W. Anderson; treasurer, Miss McCuaig. The society raised over \$250 during the year and were able to carpet the new church and furnish a kitchen in the basement. The funds are in good condition and a balance to the good is still in the treasurer's hands.

Watchnight services in Bank street church were well attended and were very impressive. Rev. T. Fraser spoke from the text "Forgetting the things that are behind," and the hymns selected were suitable to the occasion. Rev. Dr. Moore was leading in prayer as the "old year died and the New Year dawned." Then followed a New Year hymn and the benediction, after which those present extended to each other the season's greetings.

At the meeting of the Ladies' Aid of St. Andrew's church, Mrs. W. G. Perley presiding, the matter for discussion was the annual social, which instead of being held as usual on the anniversary, Jan. 26, owing to the absence of Dr. Herridge, will not take place until early in February. Dr. Herridge left on Monday to be absent the remainder of the month. Committees were appointed to make arrangements.

At the regular meeting of the Auxiliary of Stewart church, the newly elected president, Mrs. Ardley, resigned, as she felt unable to give the necessary time to the work. Miss M. Caruthers, the second vice-president, presided, and consented to arrange the programme for the next meeting, when a president will be elected. Miss McLean read an excellent paper on the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

At the annual meeting auxiliary of the Glebe church the reports showed receipts of \$64, and a membership of 35, with eight scattered helpers. Both receipts and membership are considerably in excess of last year, and the ladies were correspondingly encouraged. The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. J. W. H. Milne; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. John Tully; Miss Annie Masson and Mrs. Back; Secretary, Mrs. A. S. McElroy; Treasurer, Miss Back; Leaflet secretary, Mrs. Denny; Scattered helpers' committee, Mrs. McEwan and Miss Stewart; Clothing committee, Mrs. McCracken and Mrs. Carmichael.

Of Calvin church and its pastor the Pembroke Observer says: The Rev. Dr. Bayne, who on Sunday last, completed his fourteenth year as minister of Calvin church, gave some interesting facts and figures at the New Year's service on Wednesday morning. During those years Dr. Bayne baptized 293 persons—268 infants and 25 adults. He also married 170 couples and officiated at 172 funerals. In the same period there were added to the communion roll 659 members, 446 by profession of faith and 193 by certificate from other congregations. Fifty-eight members died during the 14 years, and 220 left the town and received certificates to other sessions. The congregation is happily free from debt. When Dr. Bayne came to Pembroke there was a debt of almost \$9,000 on the church. That debt has been paid in full. Seven years ago the congregation built the magnificent new manse at a cost of over \$5,000, which has also been paid for in full. The congregation, during the past 14 years, contributed \$10,520 to missions, and gave for all purposes \$79,515, exclusive of 1901 which will bring the grand total to \$85,000. Dr. Bayne remarked that the congregation is now larger, both in number of families and in attendance, than it has ever been, and that the time for enlargement would soon come. Steps are also being taken to have an up-to-date pipe organ installed. The pastor of Calvin church has been twenty years in the ministry, and in all that time lost only one Sunday through sickness. He commenced preaching at 18 years of age and has done much valuable work in Eastern Ontario. He has been invited to city charges, but has always declined to go. He has three times declined tempting offers to go to the United States. Once he was offered an important charge in London, England, but he is evidently rooted in his native soil of Canada.

British and Foreign.

It is estimated that of the whole population on the globe 90,000 die every day.

Rev. Arnold Boyd, Dairy, is moderator of the United Free Presbytery of Ardrossan.

Cromarty folk are considering how best to celebrate the centenary of Hugh Miller's birth.

Records kept in an Orkney lighthouse show 14,000 hours of storm in the past twenty years.

The death in Central Africa is announced of Mr. A. D. Purves, missionary, a native of Langholm.

Lord Provost Chisholm, Glasgow, says it is strong drink which keeps people from going to church.

Rev. G. Henderson, Monzie, is publishing a second edition of his "Lady Nairn and Her Songs."

It is announced that the 1st Battalion of the Black Watch have sailed from Bombay for South Africa.

The United Grand Lodge of Freemasons has given a warrant for the establishment of a lodge at Khartoum.

Mr. Quarrier would like to have the Glasgow Exhibition surplus devoted to sanatoria for the cure of consumption.

Rev. Dr. Norman Macleod, of Inverness, will conduct the services of the Church of Scotland at Cairo for three months.

The encouraging feature about the South African war is that the Boers are only successful in keeping out of the way.

Archibald Forbes was a Boham man. The manse in which he was born is partly in Morayshire and partly in Banffshire.

The wife of Lucas Meyer, a Boer general, appeared as a witness in a small-debt case in a Fife-shire Court the other day.

The Bible Society of Scotland presented 2,000 New Testaments for distribution among the stall attendants in the recent Exhibition.

Marbles used in Britain are imported chiefly from Italy, France, Belgium and Africa. Sicilian is the cheapest and commonest.

Mr. Charles Lockey, who has just died at Hastings, at the age of 81, was, in the forties, considered one of the first tenors in England.

Mr. Carnegie refuses to assist in enlarging Bannockburn Library because there is a library building there already which the public should maintain.

The recent accident to Rev. Dr. Munro Gibson, London, was not so serious as first reported, and the reverend gentleman will not lose his eyesight.

The Rev. Dr. George Mathieson was the Murtle lecturer in Aberdeen University on the 15th ult., his subject being "The Problem of Job's Patience."

The first edition, 1707, of Dr. Isaac Watt's "Hymns and Spiritual Songs," which ranks high among book rarities, fetched £140 at a London sale on the 5th ult.

Mr. Munro Ferguson, M. P., says that the only responsibility he shrinks from is that of saying anything to encourage the Boers or defame the British troops.

Rev. Dr. Williamson was on the 7th ult. presented by the kirk-session of St. Cuthbert's Church, Edinburgh, with his portrait, the work of Sir George Reid, P. R. S. A.

The First Lord of the Treasury has sent to the wife of the late Professor Robertson, Aberdeen, £150 from the Royal Bounty Fund, in acknowledgment of his services rendered to the country in the cause of education.

A return shows that 2000 British Jews have fought for Great Britain in South Africa, and had 46 killed in action while 49 more succumbed to disease. This should dispel the common notion that the Jews do not make patriotic citizens.

There are twice as many negroes in the United States to-day as there were when Lincoln set them free, and the last census returns show a white population of 67,000,000 and a negro population of 8,850,000, with about 500,000 Indians, Chinese and Japanese.

Rev. Archibald Fleming, Tron Church, Edinburgh, has accepted the call to St. Columba's Church, London, to succeed Dr. Donald Macleod. The congregation is the most important belonging to the Church of Scotland in the metropolis. St. Columba's Church, in fact, is regarded as the Scottish cathedral of London.