

WESTERN ONTARIO.

The congregation of Chalmers and McBride churches, Denwick, have agreed to call Rev. Donald Mackay of Alton in the Presbytery of Orangeville.

Messrs. Fletcher, Baird, Boyd, Sutherland and Hewish have been ordained and inducted into the eldership of Sherman avenue church, Hamilton. Dr. Lyle officiated at the service.

Sabbath Observance and the Street Car agitation was the theme of most of the pulpits in the city of London on the 20th instant. Rev. Dr. Shearer and Rev. Albert Moore the L.O.A. secretary, officiated in several of the churches.

At the pre-communion service of Knox church, Acton, Rev. Wm. B. Findley, B.A., of St. Enoch's church, Toronto, preached an impressive and very appropriate sermon. Rev. J. C. Wilson, B.A., the pastor, preached at the communion service on Sunday morning. Several new members were received.

Rev. Dr. Wardrope, now of Montreal, recently completed a two weeks' visit among the people of his old church, Chalmers, of Guelph, the pastorate of which he resigned a few years ago. Before he left the city there was a great gathering of the church people at a congregational tea at which Dr. Wardrope was presented with an address from the congregation, and the hours were spent in happy reminiscences of the days of his pastorate. The address lovingly referred to Dr. Wardrope's work and to the congregation as "your own people." Addresses were also presented to the present pastor and wife, Rev. R. J. M. and Mrs. Glasford.

Division Street Congregation, Owen Sound, vacated last year by the appointment of Dr. Somerville as Clerk of the General Assembly, is prospering under its new pastor, the Rev. George A. Woodside, M.A., formerly of Carleton Place, who was inducted in March last. On the evening of October 16th, a welcome social was held for the new members received at the recent Communion service at which a brief, but very suggestive and inspiring address was given by Mr. Woodside. Advantage was taken of the occasion to present the pastor with a fine silk gown and cassock, of which appreciative acknowledgement was made by Mr. Woodside, who paid a graceful and deserved tribute to the work of his honored predecessor, and to the heartiness of the welcome that had been accorded to him as his successor. The large congregation then retired to the spacious S. S. hall where light refreshments were served to the accompaniment of a choice programme of music and a delightful, social evening was spent.

The congregation of Argyle church, Aldboro' held a memorial service at Crinan, on the evening of the 11th inst., out of respect to their former pastor, the Revd. John Milloy, whose death took place recently near Calgary, whither he had gone to reside after his retirement from the active ministry. Mr. Milloy was for some time pastor at Lingwick, Quebec. He was inducted in Argyle church, Aldboro' Co., Elgin, in the Presbytery of London in November, 1871, and served that congregation continuously for 30 years, retiring in June, 1901. Throughout all that period he had the highest respect of the members of his flock. He was an agreeable and intelligent conversationalist, well read in all the recent theological literature, but never carried away with new theology. He was held in the greatest esteem and affection by his brethren in the Presbytery, and on Communion occasions enjoyed to the utmost a logically constructed sermon on any suitable theme. His widow, a bright, intelligent lady, is a sister of Sir James Grant, M.D., of Ottawa. The Rev. J. F. Scott of Rodney, conducted the memorial service, preaching from Job v: 28, "Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age like as a shock of corn cometh in his season." The present pastor, Rev. A. J. Mann, took part in the service, adding at the close a few well chosen words:

MONTREAL PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE.

A meeting replete with coming possibilities in Christian warfare was that held in the David Morrice Hall of the Presbyterian College, last week, when two new men were formally inducted into professorial chairs, to which they have been appointed by the Senate of the College. The new professors are the Rev. R. E. Welsh, D.D., of Toronto, and the Rev. A. R. Gordon, D. Litt. of Glasgow, the former being appointed to the Chair of Church History and Apologetics, the latter to that of Old Testament History.

There was a large audience in the hall, including a representative attendance of ministers, professors and students. Among those on the platform were the Rev. Dr. Rexford, Principal of the Diocesan College; the Rev. Principal Shaw, of the Wesleyan College; the Rev. Dr. Fleck; Dr. Clark Murray, the Rev. Dr. Campbell, Moderator of the Presbyterian Assembly; the Rev. Dr. Johnston, of the American Presbyterian Church; the Rev. Dr. James Barclay, the Rev. Dr. Frazer; the Rev. Mr. Clark, of Westmount; and the Rev. Dr. Scott, Editor of the 'Record.' After the singing of the Doxology, Dr. Barclay opened with prayer and the reading of the second chapter of first Corinthians, after which he called upon Professor Welsh to deliver his inaugural address.

Dr. Welsh's address was on 'The Academic Ordeal in Transitional Times.'

He began by pointing out that the typical student is in the midst of the transitional years, the critical age of life, with its fervent of forces of mind and body. At the same time, the religious thought of the age, in common with all knowledge, has been passing through a marked transition in the enlightened mind of our generation.

There are some things in Christianity, he claimed, of which all spiritual and enlightened Christians are entitled to judge for themselves—and these the very central truth, the spiritual verities, which are known by the direct insight of the soul, and by experience the things that really matter and last. There are other sections of our religious field relating to literary and historical problems, on which the judgment of the reliable scholar must necessarily carry more weight than that of the untrained man, however devout.

The transitional crisis through which sacred learning, in common with all knowledge has been passing, is no graver than previous crises in the history of Christianity, as when Greek and Oriental thought invaded the early church, and when the Copernican astronomy exhibited the earth as, not the centre of all, but a mere minor satellite among mighty suns. Indeed, so great an authority as Mr. Fiske has declared that the disturbance caused by scientific conceptions of to-day is not to be compared with the shock which the Copernican science created.

'We who have seen Christianity emerge out of such reconstructive periods in past time, we who have had heart searching experience of the grace of Christ, rest confidently on that power by which He is able to subdue all things to Himself.' The new science or historical discovery subdues the format or background in which spiritual experience finds expression, but Christ subdues all to the further interpretation of His own person, and ultimate meaning for the world. Every decade is a time of transition in less or greater measure, since thought is all the time a living, moving, organic growth.

Conceptions which we feared at first have served, after all, to set the Biblical revelation and Christianity more firmly and convincingly than ever into the whole order of God's universe, lending them a vaster sweep of spiritual significance. 'On the mountains in the mist I saw what I took to be a monster. It came a little nearer, and I

saw it was a man. Still nearer, and lo! it was—my brother.'

'When these transitions come there is first shock, confusion, as the result of the revolutionary discovery or theory. On one side there is, as has been said, the cry of old "remembered land marks" desecrated accompanied with anathemas. On another side a few vehement individuals are swept off and carried away to extremes of advanced opinion; while others make excuse of old shibboleths being broken to fall away into thoughtless decadence. Meanwhile, the great general body of men has been going on with the forward work of the field. Fresh minds arise, with a genius of vision, and seize the governing principal of the new, discriminate between the essential and the accidental in the old belief, gather all into some higher unity of thought, some wider synthesis which is seen to be, after all, more comprehensive and more truly spiritual than either the hoary form of the old or the raw first form of the new.

After dealing with such times of transition and their effect on student life, Dr. Welsh concluded:

Looking over the whole field of our thought we see that such experiences lie between us and the full stature of Christian manhood and Christian thought. He is most powerful who bears the brunt of the ordeal, the soar in the voice left by struggle on the way to triumph. It is through such ordeals of chance and new experience that both character and Christian truth are each welded into such firm solidity as to last and serve the will of him who abides for ever.

The inaugural address of the Rev. Dr. Gordon was postponed to a future date.

The Rev. Dr. Campbell then addressed the inducted professors, welcomed them as representing the Mother Church of the Old Land to which we look for inspiration and help. He said that the highest ideals and best traditions of the Church had come from Scotland, and he looked forward to their advent as a woman of good. Their charge was a heavy one, in that on them devolved no little share on moulding the minds of future leaders of the Church, and he paralleled their leaving parish ministry with that of a great Dr. Chalmers, who gave up a church in Glasgow to accept the chair of moral philosophy in St. Andrew's. 'Because making the seed was a more important function than sowing it.' The office of professor might well enlist their utmost enthusiasm in view of the promise which Canada held out of becoming one of the foremost nations of the world. The moderator cautioned the new professors to set forth with diffidence any conclusion at which they might arrive, at variance with the accepted views of the Christian world in the past.

Addressing Dr. Welsh he said that the importance of his position could not be unduly magnified. His subjects were of first rate importance, and either of them might well occupy his entire attention, but seeing that the financial position of the college did not admit of the appointment of a professor for each, no better combination was conceivable than the joining of apologetics to church history.

Dr. Campbell then addressed Dr. Gordon. He pointed out how important was the teaching of the Old Testament, or old covenant; how the new covenant 'ratified and sealed by the blood of Jesus,' was out the evolution of the old covenant entered into with Abraham. When one noticed the attitude of our Lord towards the Old Testament it was inconceivable how any of his followers could disregard it.

In conclusion the moderator commended the new professors and their students to God.

General greetings followed, when the new professors were introduced to many of the visitors.