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To Subscribers in Arrears.

In order to take advantage of our special dollar offer, all present subscribers should remit the amount at once and receive credit for the year. To all in arrears on Sept. 20th the full rate of \$1.50 will be charged. Let us hear from you at once, enclosing One Dollar. The Dollar rate is still good to all pre-paying subscribers.

The attention of our readers is directed to an interesting article from the Belfast Witness on the Twentieth Century New Testament. It will repay perusal.

Dr. Matthews, the secretary of the Pan-Presbyterian Alliance, is experiencing difficulties in finding delegates from the Scottish Churches to read papers at the forthcoming Alliance meeting at Washington.

Holiday time has interfered with the progress of the Century Fund. The appeal has gone out that the ministers contribute \$100,000 before the 15th August. There are 1,372 ministers in our Church, according to the latest returns. About 195 of these have reported subscriptions to the amount of about \$29,292.00.

The London Christian World of the 3rd inst. makes mention of the following well-known Canadian ministers at present visiting in the Old Land: Dr. Milligan, of Toronto, and Rev. E. D. McLaren, B.D., of Vancouver, have been preaching in Rev. W. Hutton's pulpit at Birkenhead. Professor Bryce, LL.D., of Winnipeg, is also occupying various pulpits in this country, and the story he has to tell of pioneer work in the Canadian Northwest is an extremely fascinating one.

The religious press is devoting considerable space to discussions of the life and influence of the late Col. Ingersoll. Some of them cannot refrain from casting a stone upon the dead man's grave. This does not hurt the dead, but it may influence the living, and the influence will not be salutary. We are glad to note the tone of profound regret in the majority of the religious papers that a life so richly endowed, and which might have been so powerful an agent in the service of Christ, should have been turned aside from it. What a woful waste of energy was there!

Is it necessary to perpetuate the present unsatisfactory method of supplying vacant charges? The General Assembly will continue the unpleasant question until Presbyteries agree upon some feasible plan, for with the Presbyteries lies the responsibility of finding a solution to the problem. Why should not each Presbytery begin this work by appointing a supply committee, drafting rules governing the supply of the vacant charges within its bounds, rigorously enforce these regulations, and once more assert its control over this important department of its work? It is time to terminate the present anarchy.

Last week the cable announced the death of the Rev. A. B. Bruce, D.D., professor of apologetics in the Free Church College, Glasgow. This is the second serious loss the Free Church has suffered this year. The venerable Dr. W. G. Blakde passed away earlier in the year. Dr. Bruce appealed to a much wider circle than those who entered his classroom. His books are known and prized in every English-speaking land. He was busy to the last. It is a curious fact that one journal had a criticism of his latest work in the same issue that announced his death. Such men are greatly missed in the Church of to-day.

Some unpublished stories of Carlyle have been told by our Church of Scotland contemporary, St. Andrew. On one occasion Carlyle had been reading some of the Bible with a friend, and his voice trembled at the passage which tells how those who desecrated the Temple with their buying and selling were driven with a scourge out of its precincts. Closing the book, he burst out in enthusiastic admiration: "That was grand, man, grand! He was nane o' yer saft puns o' butter." Surely there was reverence even under the abrupt simplicity of the words.

"I happened," says the writer in St. Andrew, "to enter into conversation at Ecclefechan with two men of the drover, or small farmer, class. To a remark of mine that I was surprised to see the stone over Carlyle's grave looking rather green, one of them replied in quite a surly fashion: 'Ay! maybe sae; but it'll be greener yet, for a' the Ecclefechan folk care.' "But you are surely proud of Thomas Carlyle?" I said. "Humph!" was the answer, "I suppose he was muckle thecht o' about London an' thae parts, but what did he or his ever dae for Ecclefechan? I hae kent the Carlyles a' my life, an' they were a thrawn lot, the whole o' them."

The London Presbyterian says: It has now been decided to proceed with the scheme for the erection of the "Nonconformist Cathedral" at Brighton. The spending of over £70,000 on a single building marks a new epoch in the annals of the Free Churches. The City Temple cost upwards of £60,000; the Metropolitan Tabernacle, which is now in course of re-erection, is estimated to cost some £44,000; while Union Chapel, Islington, one of the most imposing of Nonconformist churches, involved an outlay of £25,000. These are among the costliest, so that the project inspired by the Rev. R. J. Campbell reaches a figure never touched before by Nonconformists. It is interesting to note that the assistant minister, the Rev. G. Hignett, promises no less a sum than £25,000 towards the outlay, £5,000 on the day the foundation stones are laid, and an annual instalment of £1,000 for twenty years. Mr. Campbell and Mr. Hignett were fellow-students at Oxford, and have worked together in their ministerial life.

The rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, in Jersey City, who is spending his vacation in the Catskills, sent a communication recently to the Church Bulletin, giving his impression of hotel life from a Christian point of view. He writes: "Out of a hotel full of nominal Christian people, the only Episcopalian to go to church was a young lad. . . . A hotel piazza on a Sunday morning is a sad sight for a Christian. I can always imagine the devil sitting in the largest and easiest chair, in the coolest spot, and viewing, with truly infernal satisfaction, the crowds of his Master's subjects who pass precious hours with neither Bible nor prayer, and who show no activity until the arrival of his own special communication to them, the Sunday morning newspaper."

Mr. W. W. Ogilvie, of Montreal, the great mill owner, has been making a trip through Manitoba and the Northwest. As a result of his observations, he estimates that the yield of wheat for Manitoba and the Territories this year will exceed 40,000,000 bushels. The Canadian west is going ahead by leaps and bounds. Population is increasing; and, so far as the needs of our own people are concerned, the Presbyterian Church in Canada is meeting the requirements of the situation faithfully, and with a large measure of success.

An Attractive Sermon.

It is surely the part of the preacher to commend the Gospel by his presentation of it. Years of preparation have been spent to fit him for this work of preaching. It has been too true that more time has been spent during those preparatory years in learning what to say than in learning how to say it. It is also true that the Gospel has such inherent strength that even when blunderingly and weakly presented, it is not shorn of all its force. But surely this is no excuse for a continued blundering and weak presentation. Who has not felt, while listening to the unskillful presentation of a great truth, by a really earnest man, that the good man was somehow shackling the truth before it left his hands. The thoughtful listener was distressed, the careless hearer was amused, and the Spirit of God was grieved by the work of the preacher.

It is not enough to present truth unshackled before the hearer. The preacher must remember that some before him are non-receptive to spiritual impression. His work is not done when the naked truth has been presented to such minds as these. It is a part of his duty to commend. This, by the way, is very different from recommending it. He should give the truth impetuously. He should skillfully direct it, so that it shall reach its mark, and reach it with sufficient force to make an impression. Once it has gained entrance, the Word is quick and powerful, and will do its work, but while it remains outside, it is powerless.

We do not forget that Divine Agent without whose aid human skill is of little account. We speak now, however, only of the human agency which the Holy Spirit utilizes in His work, and of the necessity laid upon the preacher to make the most of it, and therefore to use it with the utmost skill.

Hence the importance of the attractive sermon. It is not that preacher and hearer be mutually attracted, but that the hearer and the truth presented shall be brought together, and entrance for the truth secured. Paul became all things to all men with this end in view, for he knew that if the truth gained entrance men would be saved.

We do not remember to have heard a sin-