

BIBLICAL CRITICISM.

MONTREAL.

OTTAWA.

Dr. Jordan's new book, so far as we have noticed, is being carefully and fairly reviewed in many quarters. The Glasgow Herald, an ably conducted but very conservative journal, in a column article, part of which we quote, says:

"The author's aim may be described as threefold—to set down the main conclusions of Old Testament criticism, to defend these against recent attacks, and to show how the acceptance of the critical position not only solves the most perplexing questions of the Old Testament books, but makes them a richer treasure than before for the preacher as well as for the historian and the student of religion. The exposition of critical gains is full and clear, and so also is the statement of conclusions as to the positive message of the sacred literature of Israel for the modern reader and teacher.

Perhaps the most effective parts of the volume are those in which Dr. Jordan replies to strictures upon the work of criticism that have been made of late years by such writers as Prof. Sayce, Dr. Emil Reich, and, above all, Prof. Orr. He does not take Dr. Reich quite seriously, and considers that the vision of that versatile author setting out with his epode on his shoulder for the site of Kirjath Sepher to dig up a copy of Genesis or Exodus in the cuneiform script, is only for the pages of Punch. Prof. Sayce, on the other hand, is rapped smartly over the knuckles for the reckless fashion in which he flings his rhetoric against the higher criticism in the name of archaeology, when every reader of his books is aware that he deviates himself from the traditional views as seriously and at as many points as the higher critics themselves.

But it is against Prof. Orr, as the worthiest antagonist, that Dr. Jordan chiefly directs his controversial spear, and principally on these two grounds, that the Glasgow professor, while charging the critics with an anti-supernaturalistic bias, confessedly sets out upon an intellectual inquiry with a very pronounced theological bias of his own, and that while saving many hard things against the critical method, he considers himself at liberty to adopt just so many of its results as he pleases, on the assumption that he is standing firmly at the absolutely correct and reasonable position, while less conservative scholars are floundering in the mire of rationalism."

While many persons are always pleased to get something for nothing others are suspicious when offered something gratuitously, even when the offer is made from the best of motives. More than a year ago there was a panic in New York, and Dr. Parks, rector of the church of St. Bartholomew, suggested to his vestry that because of the distress \$1,000 might be lent out in the parish, in small sums, thereby saving much usurious interest and assisting some who had lost their savings by the suspension of savings banks and loan companies. The vestry responded, gave the rector \$1,365, and an advertisement was put in the papers stating the money would be loaned to worthy persons without interest. To the surprise of the rector and vestry, while there were many applicants, only a small part of the money could be loaned, some trick being suspected when money was offered without interest. In many instances the money was returned in a few weeks, the borrowers fearing they would in some way be taken in. So this well laid scheme failed through suspicion.

The Point St. Charles congregation have bought a manse for their minister.

Owing to impaired health, Rev. Houghton, of Hemmingford, has been granted five months' leave of absence from 1st May.

The induction of Rev. W. J. Hewitt, at Beech Ridge, will take place on May 13, when Rev. J. McAllister will preside, Rev. Mr. Ballantyne will preach, Rev. G. Whillans will address the minister, and Mr. McAllister the people.

Montreal Presbytery accepts the resignation of Rev. A. Rowat as minister of Elgin and Athelstone; and Rev. Dr. Morrison, of Ormstown, was appointed interim moderator, to whom applications for a hearing should be addressed.

The Presbytery of St. John, N.B., nominates Rev. Dr. Mowatt, of this city, for the moderatorship of the General Assembly. This Presbytery also nominates Rev. A. A. Graham for the chair of Practical Theology in the Montreal College.

The graduating class of Montreal College, eleven in number, have offered to donate \$500 each annually for a scholarship to be known as the "E. A. Mackenzie scholarship (Class 99), a slight token of a close attachment to our Alma Mater."

The induction of Rev. Mr. Lochhead to the pastorate of Melville church, Westmount, will take place on Thursday, 22nd inst., at 8 o'clock. Dr. Scott will preside; Dr. Clark will preach, and Dr. Fraser will address the minister. The stipend guaranteed is \$2,200.

Rev. Dr. Fleck, who has been ill for several months, has been granted six months' leave of absence, in the hope that a trip abroad may restore him to wonted health. Montreal Presbytery has agreed to ordain and induct Mr. L. A. Montgomery, B.A., as assistant minister of Knox Church.

The recommendation of French Evangelization Com. in connection with the working of the mission fields in the east end of the city, under which Lacroix, Maisonneuve, Tetraultville and St. Jean Baptiste shall be worked as one field for one year, has been approved by Montreal Presbytery.

Rev. Dr. Campbell, who was reported to have resigned the pastorate of St. Gabriel Church, Montreal, writes to The Witness that the report is incorrect, inasmuch as he has not resigned. Length of service and weight of years might well entitle Dr. Campbell to a well earned rest; but the minister of St. Gabriel's is still far more active, mentally and physically, than many younger men, and his numerous friends wish him health and strength for continued labor among his attached people. He has been more than forty years in his present charge.

The following students, who have completed their theological curriculum at the Presbyterian College, were taken on trial for license, and were licensed by Montreal Presbytery at its meeting last week: John MacLean Beaton, Malcolm Arthur Campbell, William Thomas Cranston, Henry Welsford Cliff, B.A., Jos. Cordner, Romeo Etienne David, Edwin Herbert Grey, B.A., William MacMillan, B.A., Isaac Adams, Montgomery, B.A., Charles Walter Shelley and Robert Douglas Smith.

Rev. A. D. Reid, of St. Andrew's Church, Sault Ste. Marie, will lecture in the church on Tuesday evening, April 27, under the auspices of the Ladies' Aid Society. Subject: "A Tour Through Egypt, Palestine, and Syria."

Rev. J. Whyte occupied the pulpit in Erskine last Sunday morning and Dr. March of New York preached in the evening.

The members and adherents of the Stittsville and Bell's Corners congregations at the close of a recent pre-communion service met in a social manner to express their warm attachment to Rev. D. Findlay, and to bid him an affectionate farewell, on his leaving after a ministry among them of nearly ten years. The presentation of an address and a purse of money were pleasing features of the occasion.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie has offered \$1,500 towards a new organ for the Glebe church providing the congregation raise a similar amount. The Ladies' Aid, as a result of sales, concerts, etc., already have nearly \$800 of the church's share of the cost, and a canvas for the balance, now going on is being heartily responded, so that before long a fine pipe organ will be in the appropriate recess reserved for it in the beautiful edifice on First Avenue.

The Ladies' Aid of Mackay church will hold a sale of work in Albert Hall, New Edinburgh, the proceeds to go towards the building fund of the new church. Convenors of committees were appointed as follows: Candy, Miss A. Dawson; apron, Mrs. F. English; flower, Mrs. A. E. Stitt; blouse, Mrs. R. Lipsey, Mrs. J. C. Gordon; useful articles, Mrs. R. Taylor, Mrs. J. McLeod; fancy work, Mrs. B. Sinn; ice cream, Mrs. W. Gerard; home-made stuffs, Mrs. R. Wimperis and Mrs. Munro.

An address of much interest was given by Rev. Prof. Bieller, of the Montreal College, before the Presbyterian Ministerial Association of this city, last week. The professor took up the condition of the Protestant and Roman Catholic churches in France since state aid had been withdrawn. It had not made a great deal of difference; the churches were prospering just the same, he stated, and the clergy in most cases were holding more advanced views, and preaching modernism. During his stay in Ottawa, Prof. Bieller was the guest of Dr. Ami.

All the jingoes of the world powers are clamoring for more warships, says the Catholic Register. The money spent for these fighting machines is said to be the surest guarantee of peace. The same money properly invested would make poverty practically unknown. Modern civilization has not made much progress over the barbarism of the early centuries. The common people, if left to themselves, would never go to war. War will cease when the statesmen who bring it about are forced to go on the firing line and stay there until the struggle has been brought to a close.

During last year one person in every seventy-eight in Canada was convicted of some offence. In Manitoba the proportion was the highest, one in forty-four. In a country possessing the educational and religious advantages we have the proportion seems altogether too high; and we are becoming worse instead of better. Ten years ago the number was one in one hundred and thirty-six. The increase is no doubt largely due to the influx of foreigners.

Dr. Grenfell has met with a very hearty reception in Ottawa, and has told his interesting story to thousands of hearers at several largely attended meetings.