

The famous Pressense was with us—a venerable man—with broad brow and benignant countenance. He spoke at one of the social gatherings and read a paper in French. His theme was Modern Apologetics. With much cogency of reasoning, and aptness and amplitude of expression, he showed that Christianity is not the product of religions that have preceded it, and that man's moral consciousness, all through the ages, bore an unwavering testimony to the reality of evil and the necessity for redemption. Le Pasteur Eugene Bersier advocated liberty in worship, while favoring order, too. He thought our Presbyterian services too dependent on the minister, and that the people should take part more than they do. The Rev. Dr. Ellinwood, of New York, read a very able paper, dealing with intellectual tendencies in regard to scientific assumptions, destructive criticisms, the theories of those who account for Christianity by historical development, and the disquieting tactics of the secularist. He maintained that the present generation has had no equal in the past. In the subsoil of all ministerial training there should be an acquaintance, at least, with the results of Modern Science, and that the Church should be careful not to accept theories which are set forth with great assurance, and accepted with a blind bewilderment.

"How far is the Church Responsible for Present Unbelief" was discussed by Dr. Marcus Dodds. It was ingeniously, yet insidiously put, and was very unsettling in its tendency. He evidently has little faith in the thorough inspiration and infallibility of the Old Testament Scriptures. He said it was the duty of the Church to make it plain, that "Faith in Christ was not bound up with faith in the infallibility of Scripture." He charged the Church with not having as yet "formulated a doctrine of Revelation which enabled inquiring minds to discover what the Bible is and to account for all its characteristics." This paper was subsequently very keenly criticised by that acute dialectician, Dr. Watts, of Belfast, and by several others. Confessedly, the most conclusive reply was by Principal Caven, who, in five minutes, thoroughly demolished the weak points of the paper.

Principal MacVicar's admirable address on "Rich and Poor"