

Sketch of Rev. G. L. Robinson.

NOMINATED BY THE BOARD OF KNOX COLLEGE
AS PROFESSOR OF OLD TESTAMENT
EXEGESIS.

REV. George L. Robinson was born Aug. 19, 1864, in West Hebron, Washington county, N. Y., the son of William Robinson, elder in the United Presbyterian Church of Hebron (the history of which church he wrote and published in 1889.) He was prepared for



REV. G. L. ROBINSON

college in Salem, the maiden home of his mother, and where for five years she was preceptress of the Washington Academy.

He entered college at Princeton, N. J., in the autumn of 1883, and graduated after a four years' course in 1887 with the academic honor of general excellence, having won various prizes for oratory, debate and in competitive examinations. During his college course he became interested, especially at Mt. Vernon, in the summer of 1886 in Mr. Moody's Bible school, in the subject of foreign missions, and went to Beirut, Syria, to teach for a period of three years in the Syrian Protestant College.

This afforded large opportunities for travel. En route he travelled through Ireland, Scotland, France, Switzerland, Austria, down the Danube and via Black Sea and Bosphorus to Constantinople, thence by Smyrna, Messina, visiting Tarsus, Paul's birthplace, to Beirut.

While in Beirut he visited about every town, village and valley and mountain peak in Palestine, and went over beyond the Jordan, into Moab (where very few travellers get), and across the Syrian desert to Palmyra, the city of Zenobia, and stood under the remaining cedars of Lebanon.

In the summer of 1889 he visited Egypt, meeting in Cairo Miss Jessie Patton Lee Harvey, the daughter of Rev. William Harvey, D. D., of the American United Presbyterian mission of Egypt. Later in the same summer, as members of a large party, they travelled together in Palestine. Two years later he became engaged to Miss Harvey.

At the expiration of his three years' engagement in Beirut, he returned to America to study for the ministry. He entered Princeton Theological Seminary in the autumn of 1890 and because of an acquaintance with Arabic (an acquaintance gained while in the Orient,) soon became very fond of Hebrew, Aramaic and the cognate Semitic languages, especially Assyrian and Syriac.

Being defeated in the middle year in a contest in criticism by a classmate, he resolved to make his competitor work in the senior year, when the Hebrew fellowship of \$600 was at stake.

The contest was an interesting one, but apparently in favor of his competitor, hence he was constrained to accept (as it afterward turned out, prematurely,) a call to the West Street Presbyterian Church of Georgetown, D. C. But being awarded, quite unexpectedly, the fellowship in Hebrew, he resigned the church in Georgetown and went abroad for a year's study in Berlin.

However, he visited his fiancée at Cairo first; also went as far as Beirut in order to see once more his old pupils, professors and friends. Returning to Germany, he spent two and a-half months in a German pastor's family, learning the language.

Then he went to Berlin, and entered the university. He heard lectures by the famous Prof. August Dillman, Adolf Harnack, E.

Schrafer, H. L. Stroock and others. Toward the close of the year he made preparation to marry, thinking he was about to return to America.

On the way to Egypt he visited Greece, seeing Olympia, Corinth, Athens, Eleusis, etc., thoroughly. He was married in Cairo in the spring of '94. The honeymoon was spent at the Pyramids, and returning to Berlin, visited Naples, Rome, Florence, Venice, Vienna and Dresden.

Scarcely arrived in Berlin as husband and wife, when the offer of another fellowship of \$600 was made to him by the seminary professors at Princeton. This was accepted in order to get as much equipment for the ministry as possible.

In the autumn of 1894 he entered the University of Leipzig, as a student of philosophy, in order to try for a degree. He chose Semitic, Hebrew, Arabic and Aramaic, for the major; the history of philosophy and ancient history for the minor, and made the examinations in July of 1895 before the pro-chancellor and faculty of the university, passing most satisfactory examinations in the departments named, and receiving "Magna cum laude." For the thesis in "The Prophecies of Zechariah, with special reference to the origin and date of chapters 9 to 14," he received "Summa cum laude," the highest mark given by the university, and the first one ever received by a foreign student, from Prof. Albert Socin, the famous Arabic scholar.

This honor was very remarkable as Mr. Robinson in his essay combatted the views of the professors who belonged to the advanced school.

The dissertation on Zechariah's prophecies is now in press. In August, 1895, he returned to America with his family, his little daughter, Henriette, having been born in Leipzig.

Mrs. Robinson was born in Cairo, Egypt. She was educated in Damfries, Scotland, and in America. Before her marriage she was especially interested in work among the English and native young men of Egypt.

Augmentation of Stipends.

THE General Assembly's Augmentation Committee, as we go to press, are in session in this city. From the treasurer's statement the Fund is \$3000.00 less than the amount required to pay the grants in full to ministers of augmented charges. We are not aware, at the time of writing, what action may be taken, but the policy of the Committee, when the scheme was re-organized two years ago, was to expend simply the money the Church supplied, and end every year free from debt. Should this be carried out, it will mean a considerable reduction in the grants to ministers.

It is earnestly hoped, however, that before the end of the month, every congregation throughout the Church will have contributed towards the Fund. If this is the case, the \$3000.00 yet required will doubtless be made good.

Pointe Aux Trembles Schools.

THE present session of these well known Mission Schools has been one of great encouragement. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper was administered there on Sabbath, the 29th March, when eleven of the pupils were publicly received into connection with the Church. In December last, nine others were admitted, making in all, twenty during the current session.

The large attendance entails a very heavy expenditure in the maintenance of the Institution. The Fund is, at the present time considerably behind, and it is earnestly hoped that all Sabbath Schools supporting pupils, and the friends of the work generally, will forward contributions, without delay, to the Rev. Dr. Warden, treasurer, so that the year may close at the end of this month free from debt.

Close of the Church Year.

WE remind all Congregations, Sabbath Schools and Christian Endeavor Societies, that the financial year of the Church terminates this month. The books close promptly on Thursday, April 30th. It is hoped, however, that all money may be forwarded immediately, so as to enable all accounts to be paid before the end of the month.

Church News.

[All communications to this column ought to be sent to the Editor immediately after the occurrences to which they refer have taken place.]

Montreal Notes.

PERHAPS the most important event of the week in Presbyterian circles has been the formal opening for public worship of the New St. John's French church on Sabbath, the 29th ult. For two or three months past the congregation has been occupying the basement, but the completion of the church proper was anxiously awaited in order that the work of the mission might be carried on in a more advantageous way. The occasion was celebrated by three special services—two in French and one in English—at all of which suitable addresses were given by various friends of the work, including Principal McVicar, chairman of the Board of French Evangelization, Rev. S. J. Taylor, secretary; Messrs. Bourgoin, Lafleur and DeGruchy. The sermon in the morning was preached by the Rev. Dr. Cousin, in the afternoon by the Rev. Dr. Mackay, of Crescent Street church, and in the evening by the Rev. Dr. Chiniquy. At all of these services the attendance was large, and in the evening many were unable to obtain admission at all. The new building is a plain but exceedingly tasteful structure, and both outside and in presents an attractive appearance. Situated as it is, on one of the leading thoroughfares of the city and in the heart of the French population, it will be a standing invitation to all inquiring souls to learn the truth of the Gospel. It is proposed that some portion of the church should be open to the public at all hours, so that as far as possible every opportunity may be utilized of coming into contact with those desiring light. The caretaker will have on hand a good supply of helpful literature, and every evening some official member of the congregation will be in attendance to meet with any who may come in for information or discussion. It is important that as soon as possible the indebtedness on the building should be extinguished. Five thousand dollars are needed at once to meet obligations which have already matured. The collections at the three services on Sunday amounted to \$516. The special services in English will be continued during Sabbath afternoons of April with a view of allowing as many of the friends of the work as possible to see the new building and show their interest in the congregation.

THE congregation of Stanley Street church, which was organized some twenty years ago by dissident members of Erskine church on the introduction of the organ into public worship, has at length, in its turn, yielded to the now prevailing custom. At the last annual meeting of the church and congregation the question of providing the psalmody of the church with an appropriate instrumental accompaniment was discussed, and it was then found that the majority of those who had hitherto opposed the introduction of an organ into the church had altered their opinions, and when a vote was reached, the meeting was found to be practically unanimous in favor of the organ. It was then arranged that steps should be at once taken in the direction of securing subscriptions to the organ fund, and a committee was appointed to canvas the congregation with that object in view. It is understood that as soon as sufficient money has been subscribed, the organ will be secured.

THE Rev. Mr. Macgillivray, of Melville church, Westmount, has gone south for a few weeks holiday to avoid the risk to his health from the trying weather which always accompanies the approach of spring. His pulpit is being supplied by the professors of the College.

THE closing exercises of the College took place on Wednesday evening when the hall was filled with an interested audience. Fourteen graduates received their diplomas. The Rev. G. A. Mackenzie, of Chasley, was admitted to the degree of B. D., and that of D. D. was conferred upon the Rev. J. S. Black, of St. Andrew's Church, Halifax, formerly pastor of Erskine church, Montreal. The session has in every respect been a successful one. The principal was able to announce the bequest of \$25,000 from the late Robert Anderson for the endowment of the French chair. This however aids the funds of the Board of French Evangelization rather