

DEATH OF REV. WM. GREGG, D.D.

On Wednesday morning of last week death removed a widely known preacher and teacher in the person of Dr. William Gregg. Had he lived till July next he would have been 92 years of age. Dr. Gregg was a powerful and impressive preacher, but it was as professor of apologetics and church history in Knox College that he was most widely known, having held that office for upwards of twenty-three years. He was a man of wide culture, and as a teacher and theologian took high rank. Of a kindly disposition, and with a fine sense of humor, he greatly endeared himself to the students of his day, and the news of his death will be received with universal regret by the graduates of Knox College and a large circle of friends.

Dr. Gregg was of rugged physique, and throughout his active life knew little of sickness. On May 10th he and Mrs. Gregg celebrated their diamond jubilee, and his fine state of health was a matter for congratulation at that time.

Deceased had no sympathy with the modern line of thought in respect to Biblical authority, and to the very last deplored the tendencies of certain critics to cast doubt on the Divine inspiration of Holy Writ. In the Presbyterian Church his judgment on ecclesiastical matters was regarded as eminently sound, and in several important periods in its history his services and advice were found to be of almost inestimable value. It is related of Dr. Gregg that as pastor of John Street Church, Belleville, away back in 1847, he was wont to insist that candidates for matrimony should be conversant with the shorter catechism before being regarded as eligible for the ceremony. Ministers were scarce in that district in those days, and this rule led to a familiarity with the catechism little short of remarkable. Dr. Gregg took strong ground on the much-debated question of the right of a man to marry his deceased wife's sister. He opposed the steps taken to legalize such contracts, and although defeated, still maintained that he was right.

Sketch of His Career.

Rev. Wm. Gregg was the son of Daniel Gregg, a ruling member of the Presbyterian Church. He was born at Killyreen, near Ramelton, County Donegal, Ireland, in July 5th, 1817. He was educated at Ramelton Classical school, after which he spent some years in mercantile life and banking. On resuming his studies he entered Glasgow University, where he secured the degree of B.A., and afterwards took his M.A. at Edinburgh University. His theological course was conducted under Drs. Chalmers, Welsh, and Cunningham at the Free Presbyterian Church College, Edinburgh. He was licensed in 1846, and came to Canada in the same year, being sent as a missionary by the Colonial committee of the Free Presbyterian Church. After spending a year in the neighborhood of Kingston, he was on June 22nd, 1847, ordained as minister of John Street Church, Belleville, Ont. He remained there until 1857, when he accepted a call to Cook's Church, Toronto. His official connection with Knox College began in 1864, when he was appointed lecturer of apologetics. He also taught the theological class of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, during the first half of its first session in 1867. In 1861 he was appointed Moderator of the Free Presbyterian Church of Canada, and his year of office was marked by the union of that branch of the church and the United Presbyterian Church of Canada. In July, 1872, he was appointed professor of apologetics in Knox College, and resigned his charge in order to devote all his time to his new duties. He retained that position until his resignation in June, 1895, and in addition

took classes in church history. In 1878 the degree of D.D. was conferred upon him by Hanover University in the United States. Dr. Gregg was a man of fine literary attainments. Among his other works he wrote "The History of the Presbyterian Church in Canada," edited a "Book of Prayer for Family Worship," and prepared a number of tracts and discourses for publication. On leaving Knox College the Alumni Association presented the college with a portrait in oils of the Professor, and in a parting address expressed their sense of the loss the Church and college sustained by his retirement. Dr. Gregg married on May 10th, 1849, Phoebe, the eldest daughter of the late Dr. Rufus Holden, Belleville. He is survived by his widow and the following family:—Mrs. (Dr.) Stewart, Clinton, Ont.; W. R. Gregg, architect, Toronto; George Gregg, engaged in Y.M.C.A. work in Korea; A. H. Gregg, and Miss Isabelle, Toronto; and R. C. Gregg, Vancouver.

The funeral of Dr. Gregg took place on Friday afternoon, and was largely attended. After a brief service at his late home, the cortege made its way to the Bloor Street Church, where a large congregation had gathered. After singing one of deceased's favorite hymns, "From every stormy wind that blows," the Rev. Prof. Ballantyne paid tribute to the deceased. Professor Gregg's life, he stated, was one which would always be gratefully remembered by Canadians.

He had a wonderful grasp of evangelical principles, and had a beautiful Christian faith. Sixty-three years ago he had come to Canada, and had worked with energy to establish the Presbyterian Church on a firm basis in this country.

Dr. Gregg was a Calvinist through and through, yet no one had a warmer heart or a keener sense of humor than he. As a professor he came in close touch with his students. They were to him personal friends.

Rev. Dr. Wallace spoke of the assistance which Professor Gregg had given the Bloor Street Church. He was a man of great activities, and served with unswerving loyalty his Master, Jesus Christ. After the singing of "Jerusalem, the golden" the congregation was given an opportunity of viewing the remains, which were then taken to the Necropolis for interment. The pallbearers were:—Professor Fletcher and Messrs. Wm. Kerr, S. Wallace, George Robb, M. Riddell, and A. Muirhead.

THE PRESBYTERIAN JEWISH MISSION.

The past week has been a time of rejoicing with all friends of Israel in Toronto, when this youngest mission of our church held its first anniversary services.

On Sabbath, May 16th, the superintendent, Mr. S. B. Rohold, preached the annual sermon in Knox Church, and from the text "Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake." 2 Sam. 9: 1. He made a most eloquent appeal on behalf of the spiritual needs of modern Israel for Jesus' sake.

On Monday evening the first annual meeting was held in old St. Andrew's Church, with Rev. J. McP. Scott, convener, in the chair. Expressions of regret at their unavoidable absence were received from Dr. Milligan, pastor of the church, and Dr. McLaren. After the duet "O Morning Land" had been very sweetly sung by Mr. and Mrs. Learmonth, the chairman, who has ever been a staunch friend of and unwearied worker for the cause of Israel, briefly presented a word picture of the Jewish population in our city, numbering fully 16,000, with their eleven synagogues, two theatres, banks, and a daily newspaper, and pointed out that the mission had been started by order of the General Assembly, and belongs to the whole Presbyterian Church; it was cause for

rejoicing that the W.F.M.S. now desired a definite share in this work. The committee counts itself fortunate in securing the services as missionary and superintendent of Mr. S. B. Rohold, a Palestinian Hebrew Christian, with a fine record of eight years' experience. Associated with Mr. Rohold in the work are three lady missionaries, a trained nurse, two doctors, a chemist, a Hebrew Christian assistant and a band of voluntary workers.

An added interest was given to the program at this point by the singing in Hebrew of the hymn "The God of Abraham praise," by Mr. Becker, a recent convert from Judaism, who has been received into full communion into the Christian Church.

The Superintendent read a comprehensive report of the many branches of work started during the past year, and relating several interesting and encouraging experiences of the various workers. The departments of work are: The reading room, night schools for men and women, Bible class, Gospel services, Sabbath school, Girls' Sewing class, boys' club, mothers' meeting, free dispensary, visitation, tract distribution, open air services, and poor relief. It has been truly a year of beginnings, and yet God has been mindful of us, for it has pleased Him to encourage us by showing us some fruit of our labors. In addition to secret believers (not a few) six accepted the Saviour, were baptized and united with the Christian Church.

Dr. R. P. Mackay, representing the F.M.C., spoke of this work as the best worth while, because of Israel's past history and future outlook. There was a most intimate relation between the Church of God and the Hebrew people; they were both "a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, and a peculiar people." The mission of Israel had only been partly accomplished; they have a good work yet to do for God in this world.

Hon. W. A. Charlton, president of the Laymen's Missionary Movement, brought a message of sympathy with the work from that society, and spoke of what the Jew had done for the world. A well-known philanthropist in this city had said to him, "Money that we spend on foreign missions is wasted; it is taking it from our hospitals, where it is much needed!" This set him thinking, and he could now say emphatically that such was not the case.

Dr. Neil referred to the fact that in spite of the almost universal impression that Jewish mission work was more discouraging than any other, the foundations of a good strong mission had been successfully laid during the past year, and Principal Gandier seemed almost to regret that his work for Knox College precluded him from the privilege of securing funds for the much-needed new building for the Jewish mission.

After a vote of thanks to all who had contributed to the programme had been moved by Dr. Gilray, a most successful and enjoyable meeting was brought to a close by the singing of the Doxology and the Benediction.

Current Literature for May gives a large quantity of instructive and interesting reading. There is an appreciative article on "Swinburne: The Last of the Giants," with a portrait; A New Light on the Stormy Courtship of Thomas Carlyle, deals with the recently published love letters of Thomas Carlyle and Jane Welsh, and many characteristic extracts are given. Readable articles on the New Sultan of Turkey; A Prince of Storytellers, Marion Crawford; The Discovery of the Tides of the Earth; a selection of "Recent Poetry"; Volcanic Eruption as the Source of Life on the Earth; and the World's Latest Outbreak of Cholera, all contribute to make up an excellent number of this useful magazine. Address Current Literature, 4143 West 125 Street, New York.