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Ottawa, Wednesday, 6th March, 1901.

A committee of the Presbytery of Toronto, on Tuesday, reported in favor of offering Rev. Dr. F. R. Beattie, of Louisville, Ky., the vacant professorship of Apologetics in Knox College. This is a distinctly good nomination. Dr Beattie is a Canadian by birth and a distinguished graduate of Toronto University and Knox College. If he is offered the position and accepts, the College and Church may be congratulated on securing so able a man for this important chair.

Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine for February comes to hand with its usual varied table of contents. "The Captivity of the Professor" is an amusng, though impossible, story of an eminent authority on entomology, while "A Double Buggy at Lahey's Creek" is an interesting tale of Australian life. "Cricket Reform," "Maladministration of Messes," "Foreign Undesirables," are among the subjects under consideration. In Musings Without Method is discussed the danger of the classics being crowded out of the university curriculum by the increasing importance of modern languages. Leonard Scott Publishing Company, New York.

How is it that the majority of men are less careful of interests committed to them than they are of their own! The Church Treasurer tells us that between three and four hundred congregational treasurers are delinquent, and that nothing has been received from them or the church funds. But he also tells us that immediately after the date for closing the books the money pours in by the thousands of dollars. The natural inference is that the money was lying idle, but that the congregational treasurer had simply neglected to forward it. We wonder if these gentlemen would have run so close, would in fact have run over the time limit had they been handling their own funds. The answer is obvious. Now no one accuses them of dishonesty, but the golden rule has been sadly shown upon somewhere.

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A CERTAINTY OF KNOWLEDGE.

It is a curious fact that the more intelligent a man is, the greater respect will he shew for the opinions of his fellows. The ignorant man is invariably the more positive in his assertions. The church member who has never been within the walls of a Methodist church will condemn Methodists in unmeasured terms. We are all familiar with the untravelled American whose boasting has made his nation ridiculous. No man holds what he calls the truth, but which is just as likely to be a perversion of it, more tenaciously than the man who has found an infinitesimal part of it. The less a man knows the more certain is he that there is little beyond his ken worth knowing.

We have to meet such men every day, and the ever-recurring problem is how best to deal with them. Were it not that we are in the world to do the best we can for our neighbor, we could easily pass these men by with an indulgent smile. But as Christians we cannot do that. We are bound to make an effort to enlighten them. We do not know a more discouraging problem. You enter a man's life with a carefully prepared bit of light. You know he needs just what you are bringing him. He shuts the door in your face, and makes you feel, not that you are a meddler, but presumptuous. He believes that he knows more about this matter than you do.

Something is wrong. Perhaps it is your method of carrying or shading the light. Don't give it up, however. Try again. It is your business, if you have obtained light to bring the same into the lives of others. Live for that, and some day he will not shut the door upon you.

We have often commended the management of the North American Life Assurance Company, whose twentieth annual statement appears on page 159 of this issue. It is a record of steady progress, wise management and constant prosperity. Numbered by years the North American Life is not an old institution; but judged by its achievements and standing, it is one of the most solid insurance corporations on the continent. This proud position is due to the experience and ability brought to bear on every department of its business. The Company has been exceedingly fortunate in its directorate and officials. Men of the character and business grasp of J. L. Blaikie, President, Hon. Senator (Mac), and Sir Wm R. Meredith, K. C., Vice presidents; E. Gurney, D. McKee, J. K. Osborne and Senator Gowan could not fail to make a distinct success of any enterprise with which they connected themselves; while Mr. Wm. McCabe, F. I. A., as Managing director, L. Goldman, A. I. A., as Secretary, and Dr. J. Thorburn as Medical Director, each in his own sphere are the right men in the right place as leading officials of a great Insurance Company. Read the Statement.

HUXLEY AND RELIGION.

CONTRIBUTED BY E. W. M.

It was Sir W. Flower who wrote, "If the term 'religious' be limited to acceptance of the formularies of one of the current creeds of the world, it cannot be applied to Huxley; but no one could be intimate with him without feeling that he possessed a deep reverence for 'whatsoever things are true etc.' and an abhorrence of all that is the reverse of these; and that although he found difficulty in expressing it in definite words he had a pervading sense of adoration of the infinitely very much akin to the highest religion." We are also told of the retiring and incoming Presidents of the Royal Society, by way of climax to their eulogies, dwelling on the religious side of Huxley's character. "If religion means strenuousness in doing right, and trying to do right, who, asked Lord Kelvin, 'has carried the title of a religious man better than Huxley?' In the same strain spoke Sir J. Lister, in emphasizing Huxley's intellectual honesty, his perfect truthfulness, his whole-hearted benevolence.

Of him his friend Lord Avebury writes that he was not only a great man, but a good and a brave one, whose two great objects in life were the progress of scientific thought, and the bettering of the condition of the masses of the people. His wish was to be remembered as "a man who did his best to help the people" rather than by any other title. Quite in line with this is the obituary notice of "The Christian World."

"It in Huxley's earlier years the average opinion of the churches had been as ready as it is now to accept the evolution of the Bible, it would not have been so startled by Darwin's theory of the condition of man; and Darwin's greatest disciple would have enjoyed thirty years ago the respect and confidence and affection with which we came to regard him before we lost him."

Not a few of his immediate friends thought Huxley carried his scepticism too far, and held that certain conclusions which he doubted, if not indeed proved, stand on a securer basis than he supposed. To them however his scepticism was modified by the reverent spirit in which he approached these problems, and his earnest desire to arrive at the truth. They accordingly regarded him as no opponent of religion from his own point of view, however fundamentally he might differ from the majority of clergymen.

Of one regarding whom all this good has been spoken and written it cannot surely be said that he only pulled down and destroyed. On some person or persons it necessarily devolves to clear away the cobwebs which the early and medieval ecclesiastics, unavoidably ignorant of science, and with ideas of the world now known to be fundamentally erroneous, spun around the teachings of Christ. And since this fact remains that where Science is most advanced religion is there purest, the conclusion follows that to such as Huxley we owe not a little. When therefore Dr. Wace and Mr. Gladstone propounded views on a certain question, showing deplorable ignorance of medical science, it is to be lamented that such an