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## Notes of the Week.

In the death of the late Rev. Dr. Douglas not only the Methodist church, but all evangelical Christian bodies, every good cause and the Dominion at large has sustained a great loss. The heroic perseverance and courage with which he struggled against and overcame difficulties which would have crushed any ordinary man, his eloquence as a speaker and preacher, his catholic spirit, his bold arraignment and rebuke of public and social wrongs, his interest in public questions wherein so many clergymen fail, his intimate acquaintance with and consequent ability to speak with authority upon them; his patriotism and the dauntless courage with which he would meet any foe, his high character and position, all combined to give him a place in his own denomination, and make him a power in the country such that it will be very hard indeed to fill.

A very pleasing incident in the visit of His Excellency to the Missionary Convention was the very cordial handshaking which took place on the platform between him and the Rev. Dr. Pierson who followed after the brief but very suitable address given by Lord Aberdeen, and the happy, playful humor of Dr. Pierson's opening remarks. "In 1888," he said, "when he attended in London the world's great Missionary Conference, Lord Aberdeen presided and he made his maiden speech in England on that occasion, and now he was to make his last to the convention when his Lordship was again on the platform," adding that "there would never be war between the United States and Canada so long as Lord Aberdeen was Governor-General and the United States were represented in this country by such excellent men as Rev. Dr. Gordon and himself."

"The National League for the Protection of American Institutions," petitioned both sessions of the Fifty-first and Fifty-second Congresses against the National Government making sectarian appropriations for education among the Indians. And the Fifty-third Congress has now before it another petition on the same subject from the same source. A majority of the largest Protestant denominations that accepted Government aid for this purpose has declined to receive it any longer. These denominations represent, including membership and adherents, a population of 14,750,000. And there is good reason to believe that a large part of the churches which have not yet taken action on this subject is in favor of the course pursued by the denominations whose names we have just given. It is also certain that people of the United States not connected with any Christian denomination, numbering probably 30,000,000, are not in favor of sectarian appropriations. It is thus evident that a vast majority of the citizens of the United States are opposed to all sectarian appropriations by the Government.

The Bishop of Winchester, having seen in a handbill that the Rev. H. L. Young, vicar of St. John's, Portsea, would give an address at the Presbyterian Church, Portsmouth, at a United Communion service, sent the vicar a letter in which he said:

"It is my duty to explain to you that the giving of this address will involve an infraction of the Church Law, and I am sure that, on reflection, you will feel it right to withdraw from your engagement." Mr. Young, however, attended the service, and sent the following reply to the Bishop:—"It is not my intention to commit an illegal act by any proceeding of mine, but it is sad to find that your Lordship can so promptly interfere with my Christian liberty, and that you have not merely allowed the Mass for the dead to be set up in this town, but you have also publicly patronized the promoters of the deadly delusion, which, in common with myself, you have sworn to be blasphemous fable and dangerous deceit." With all due respect, I cannot understand the equity of such proceedings."

Until this church can show a little more liberality in the matter of the observance of the Lord's supper along with other Christians, it is of no use to parade before the world its desire for union with other Christian denominations.

## THE MISSIONARY CONVENTION.

The Missionary Conference last week was undoubtedly the most notable gathering of its kind ever held in this city. It is first, a purely missionary convention called together with the distinct and special object of deepening and extending the interest and efforts of God's people in carrying out the last great commission of Christ "to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Its catholic character, the call for it being signed by representatives of nearly all the evangelical bodies, adds great interest and importance to it. The number also of returned missionaries taking part in it, or of men whose zeal for missions has made their names household words is unique, if not unequalled before in Toronto. Drs. Pierson and Gordon, of Boston were there, Rev. Dr. Mackay, of Formosa fame and Mr. Spencer Walton, of South Africa, were there; Dr. Grenfell, of the Deep Sea Mission, was there; Mr. Herman Warszawiak, of the Jewish Mission, New York, was there, and others at home whose interest in missions is well known were conspicuous and unwearied in their efforts to make the conference a success and a blessing. And with deepest reverence we would add, to crown all, the Holy Spirit was present and gave power and blessing.

First session. The convention was fortunate in its presiding officer in the first session, Rev. T. C. Desbarres. He was prompt, ready, active; no aimless, purposely wasting of time, or halting because he did not know what should next be done. More than that and most important, he gave, by the blessing of God, a right tone at the outset to the convention. It began in an earnest, devout, prayerful spirit. A bible-reading after devotional exercises was conducted by Mr. Spencer Walton. The subject was, "Preparation for Service." Taking Moses as an example, he showed and enforced from the Scriptures that the great preparation for the most entire and grandly successful service of God is complete separation from the world, worldly methods, worldly influences, and instruments, and readiness to do God's work at God's time, in God's way, by the means which He has appointed. In this as in other parts of the convention things might be said with which all could not agree, but the truth he illustrated is an important one and its presentation at the outset was very helpful.

The second session was led and conducted in a most sympathetic and helpful way by the Rev. Dr. McTavish, of Toronto. Owing to train delays, brethren expected had not got forward, and the programme had to be altered. The Rev. Dr. Pierson was on hand and in so far filled up the blank. His subject as announced was "the Holy Spirit and Missions." He said, "He was not in haste to get to Missions. If we would build well we must have a good foundation." So he confined himself to an address on the Holy Spirit. We can well believe that no one except, perhaps, those who have made this subject the theme of as prolonged, prayerful and intelligent study as Dr. Pierson has, will ever forget or lose the impression produced by his clear, full and most effective address. It put the conference on a right basis for doing good at the very start. Unless the Spirit was present in it and in all missions and Christian work nothing will be accomplished, as nothing has been accomplished of Christian work in the past without His presence and power. At this same session Dr. Grenfell, employed as a medical man in the Deep Sea Mission, at one time to the North-Sea fishermen, and more lately among the fishermen on the coast of Labrador gave an account of that most interesting work among a very needy class of men. Dr. G. is quite a young-looking man, and began his address evidently feeling deeply under the influence of the address which Dr. Pierson had just closed. In a very simple, natural, and artless manner at this session, and in a subsequent one on Thursday morning, he told of the dangers and temptations of the fisherman's life at sea and ashore. Many most striking incidents were

mentioned, illustrating, perhaps, as only sea-faring life can do, the noblest spirit of self-sacrifice; how the gospel has been received by many of these rough fishermen, and what it has done for them. A very graphic picture was drawn of the poverty, isolation and hardships endured by those living on the inhospitable Labrador coast, what is being done to carry to them the gospel. A well deserved tribute was paid to the labours of the Moravians among them, and what is proposed to be still done to somewhat brighten their lives, was laid before the convention.

The third session was presided over by Chancellor Boyd. This evening was given up to addresses by Revs. Dr. Gordon and Dr. Pierson Association Hall was filled to its utmost capacity with an eager, expectant and inspiring audience. The men and their subjects were worthy of it. Dr. Gordon's subject was the Holy Spirit in Missions. He confined himself largely to a consideration of the work of the Spirit, how He works in individuals, leading them to give themselves to the work of the gospel, to the fields He appoints for them, and how He works in the church. Dr. G.'s manner of address is calm, forcible, advancing to his conclusions by arguments which become stronger as he advances. Dr. Pierson's address was on "The Unoccupied Fields." His great object was to set forth and advocate such a method of advance in mission work, as that the whole earth should be covered and every people reached by it. He showed the waste of money and effort from overlapping in some fields and neglecting others, the law of missionary advance is the law of the regions beyond, so that until the whole earth is overtaken no two Christian bodies should be working in the same field. Dr. Pierson speaks nervously, vigorously, and powerfully, by his intense earnestness and perfect command of the scriptures and facts bearing upon the missionary enterprise.

Wednesday morning's session was appropriately presided over by Rev. Dr. Parsons, who is well known to be in sympathy with the subject which was taken up, namely, "The Lord's Coming," by Rev. Dr. Gordon; that is, the Lord's coming in person to reign upon the earth. His address, he said, was elementary, because on that subject it was necessary to be so. Whether one could agree with his views or not, his address was pre-eminently clear and could not but lead all who heard it to think. His main points were showing what the coming of Christ is not, what it is, and granting what he considers it to be, setting forth what should then be the attitude of the church towards His coming, and the effect it should have upon the church in promoting its spiritual purity and activity. The Rev. Dr. Pierson followed upon "The Secret of Power in Work for God which, in a word, we may say he considered to be and powerfully showed to be, being filled by, given up to, and wholly possessed by the Holy Spirit, so the worker became, through the indwelling of the Spirit and being wholly obedient to Him, simply God's instrument in doing His work.

Wednesday afternoon brought the fifth session of the convention. It was interesting to watch the tide rising; meeting after meeting increased in volume and in widespread and deepening interest. At this afternoon meeting Rev. Dr. Mackay was to make his first address on "The Missionary Abroad." The large hall was filled to receive him and it was evident the moment he rose that his name and fame as one whom God had highly honoured with success in his work had gone before him. It is impossible to hear Dr. Mackay to speak of him without noticing his striking personality. We cannot speak of it here. Inquiries made of him had suggested his line of remark and he spoke at length and in his own way of the missionary on the way to his field, in his house, his dress, in his manner toward the people, in his plans and in his work. It was largely for the benefit and direction of young men, and the spirit and point of it all was to go forth in faith, to preach Jesus only and live for Him, rather to love Him with undivided and never-failing devotion.