

The Church Abroad.

AT Dingwall Free Presbytery
SCOTLAND. Rev. M. Macaskill gave notice of the following overture for discussion at a future meeting of the Presbytery: "Whereas the Declaratory Act, passed by the General Assembly of 1892, has been all along a source of serious divisions and controversy in this Church, has now resulted in the secession of some of our ministers, office-bearers, members and adherents and will, if continued, be productive of much more division, it is hereby humbly overruled by the Free Presbytery of Dingwall to the Venerable the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland, to take the premises into their most earnest consideration, repeal the said Act, and thus remove an Act which has benefited no one, but has become a burden on many a conscience of God's people, because they believe it weakens the position of this Church in the cause of divine truth."

Rev. ARTHUR STEWART has been elected to Ardler parish church.

Rev. JAMES SPITALL has been ordained at Lismore U. P. Church.

Rev. A. T. TAIT HENDERSON, assistant at Barony Church, Glasgow, has been elected to Brechin second charge.

The call from Pittenweem parish church to the Rev. J. G. Goddard, M.A., of Tillyconly, has been sustained.

Rev. DR. OULIVK, late of Broughty Ferry U. P. Church, died at Portobello in his seventy-sixth year.

Rev. DR. MILLIGAN has been entertained to dinner by the citizens of Aberdeen prior to his leaving for Edinburgh, where he will in future reside.

Rev. GEORGE WILLIAMS, formerly assistant in McNeave Memorial Church, Dundee, has been inducted and ordained to the Free Church of Ferryden, near Montrose.

A request has been made to Rev. John Roberts, of Gorbals Tabernacle, Glasgow, to consider the acceptance of a call to Chicago Union Church, the headquarters of Mr. Moody's evangelistic work in America. This pastorate is said to present one of the most important fields of labour in the United States, with the hundreds of divinity students in attendance, and strong efforts are being made to secure the Glasgow minister. A salary of £1,200 is offered to start with. Mr. Moody is one of the deacons of the church.

AN interesting discussion took place at the last meeting of the Presbytery of London South, on a proposed overture to the Synod calling attention to the grave objections to the existing civil establishments of religion in the country, in respect to their constitution and position and in particular in the usages and doctrines in the Church of England that are inconsistent with purity of worship and Gospel truth, and asking the Synod to consider the whole matter. The overture was moved by Dr. Kennedy Moore, seconded by Mr. Alex. Thomson, and supported by Revs. McIntosh and W. M. Macphail. Its transmission was objected to on various grounds by Revs. H. C. Wilson, J. Reid Howatt and J. W. Maxwell, and on a division it was negatived by eighteen votes to sixteen.

It is expected that Rev. John Beveridge, B.D., of Stow, Midlothian, a minister of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland will accept a call which has been extended to him from Wolverhampton.

"This is how the Rev. R. E. Walsh characterizes the dwellers of the suburbs of London:—"The suburbs are the homes of stupidity, of the stupid prophecies and conventionalities, of stupid empty talk that skims over the surface of everything and penetrates nothing." He considers London to be far behind the provincial towns in the cultivation of a hard-headed, vigorous, keen intelligence.

DR. THOMAS DAVIDSON'S church at Ealing has been opened after enlargement. The building which was formerly seated for 537, now accommodates 750, and the cost of the

enlargement, which has been very effectively carried out, amounts to considerably over £2,000. Dr. Davidson's ministry at Ealing continues to be a marked success. The greater proportion of the new sittings available are already let.

The Presbytery of Newcastle has adopted a scheme by which every minister of the Church will have a right to claim a gratuity on his retirement through age or infirmity. The scheme is constructed on an actuarial basis. The same Presbytery declined to sanction a proposal whereby a board of examiners would be vested with full power to admit or reject applicants for entrance to the Theological College, without reserving a controlling power for the Presbytery.

Rev. CHARLES DONALDSON, who has ministered to First Coleraine for two and a half years, has just resigned his pastorate, with the view, it is said, of seeking service in England. Mr. Donaldson was highly esteemed by his people.

A large committee has been appointed by the Presbytery of Belfast to take charge of the interests of the Presbyterian church in connection with the new Education Act, which will come into operation in January next.

The City of Belfast Christian Endeavour Union held its first social meeting recently. The Rev. Wm. Park, M.A., president, occupied the chair, and in an admirable address emphasized the fact that spiritual work is the one thing aimed at by the society. Reports from a number of associations were received, and stimulating speeches were delivered. The work of Christian Endeavour appears to have taken root in and around the city, and under the guidance of the accomplished and energetic minister of Rosemary street is very likely to succeed.

A writer in the Witness pleads earnestly for an improvement in the service of praise throughout the Presbyterian churches in Ireland. "In a few town churches, and only a few such, is the singing anything like what it ought to be; in most, both in town and country, it is simply deplorable." So says this writer, and nobody who knows how things are will seriously question his statement. If half the energy which has been expended in the long and bitter controversy about instruments had only been put forth in the improvement of the Church's praise, there would have been something to show for it.

Rev. R. JONES, Cefn Merthyr, WALES, has received a unanimous invitation to undertake the pastorate of the churches at Wiston and Goshen, Pembrokeshire.

AFTER a pastorate of twenty-five years Rev. T. Gwynedd Roberts has resigned the charge at Rhostryfan.

Rev. W. JONES WILLIAMS, of Penel, Beddgelert, has accepted the pastorate of the Calvinistic Methodist churches at Rhwylwys and Pentir, near Bangor.

The third session of Bala College has been opened, the various entrance examinations having been held by Principal Dr. Charles Edwards. Professors Williams, Edwards and Gracie, the Revs. J. O. Thomas (Aberdwy), and R. Williams (Dolgelly).

IN order to secure a better attendance at its meetings, the Presbytery of Kansas has decided to pay mileage to the members, the amount to be raised by a per capita tax on the congregations.

Rev. A. BEAMAN, of Confortright, Ontario, has received a call to Marine City, Michigan.

Rev. RICHARD TURNBULL has resigned the pastorate of Second Avenue church, Detroit.

SPECIAL efforts are made to raise the funds for the Theological College, Omaha, required for the current year. The congregations are standing well by the institution.

THE Presbyterian colleges are doing remarkably well. Pierre reports the best condition for several years, with twice as many students as last fall, and a little money ahead.

That is an experience some Western institutions would give \$100,000 to have. Albert Lea has one third more boarding students than last year, and some new pianos are required. Macalester has an increased attendance with a number of young ladies among them. Alma is doing handsomely in Upper Michigan, Bellevue and Hastings in Nebraska. Westminster has sold a large number of lots near Denver, and the Iowa colleges, though a little crowded, are reaching more students than a single one would probably do. Montana is getting into splendid shape.

The Mission Field.

AN American missionary writing from Arcot, India, says that the church has two missionaries of which it takes little account, namely, the bicycle and the magic-lantern.

REPORTING to the Greenock Presbytery on the Foreign Mission Fund, the Rev. Mr. Symington said it was gratifying to notice an increase in the general fund, and he was glad at the same time to say that there was an increase in their own Presbytery. For these three months the contributions had amounted to £51 6s., which, compared with £52 11s. in the previous year, showed an increase of £1 14s. 8d. There were six congregations which had increased to the extent of £7 14s. 10d., and three congregations which had decreased to the amount of £6 0s. 2d., but one of these seemed only to have failed to send in their contributions, so that they could not look upon this as such a large decrease.

A NEW society, called the Central Sudan Mission, has been started with the object of reaching the vast tribes of the Sudan, numbering it is said, about sixty millions, and meantime without a single missionary. Two routes have been chosen: the caravan tract to the Mediterranean coast, and the River Nile, a branch of the Niger. A small band of men have settled at Sigi to study Arabic and Hausa, and do what mission work is meantime possible. In connection with the western route, two missionaries in March last attempted the ascent of the Niger, but were prevented by the Royal Niger Company. One of them has since been cut down with fever. It is stated that the two missionaries were not properly equipped for the vicissitudes of life in Africa.

CAPTAIN THOMPSON, who has lately been put in charge of the "Allen Gardiner," thus records his impressions of missionary work formed while he had to wait for some time at Keppel Island, one of the stations of the South American Missionary Society: "As for the work going on here by Mr. Whaites, I am surprised. It would do some of the people good, who laugh at missions, to see here the effects of true Christian instruction and example. I know what it is when people mix with heathen and outwardly civilise them, how it only makes them twenty times worse than before; but when Christ is lifted up to them, and by persons like Mr. Whaites and Mr. Lawrence, then we see what it is to be a Christian. It has opened my eyes to live with people like these, who are living with Christ, and He in them! I thank Him hourly for leading me here. Oh that people at home were to see these natives, civilised and Christian, and realize what it means to them even here, and to know there are at least hundreds of them, Yagham, Ous, Alaculof. Just think of the two or three who are working here among people that have never heard the word Christ. I have not written before of this until I saw all the work."

LETTERS from Dr. Laws and Mr. Risk Thomson, dated 2nd and 3rd August, report their safe arrival, after a pleasant voyage of twenty-five days, and all well. The Rev. W. Risk Thomson writes: "The rainy season will not be over for nearly two months yet, but we will have quite enough to do in the mission to keep us busy till then, when we hope to get a wider view of the land. The consul is away just now trying to settle a 'palaver' at another part of the Protectorate, which, by the way, is now changed from 'The Oil Rivers Protectorate' to 'The Niger Coast Protectorate.' We will call to see the consul on his return."