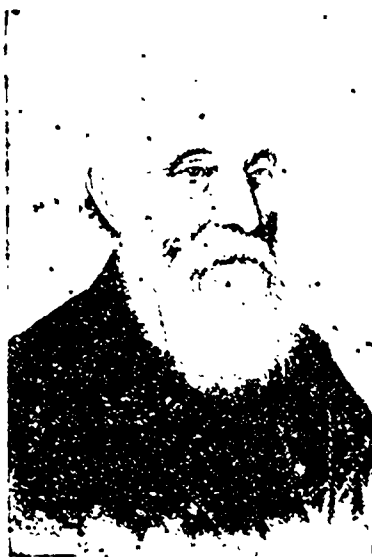


support for Establishments remember that a socialised State will certainly be Erastian, and will insist on controlling and supervising churches as well as other institutions.

It is, we hope, needless to say that we regard with the utmost sympathy the movement for union among Scottish Presbyterians. It will be a calamity of the first magnitude if the Church of Scotland is not included sooner or later in that union. That the tone and feeling of the Churches towards one another has grown more cordial during recent years is a fact to be recognised and rejoiced in. For the advocates of Establishments we have great respect, and we can understand their impatience with those who will not say that they are against Establishment on principle, and who seem to have no ground to stand upon. Did we believe in Established Churches, we should think it the duty of Scotch Presbyterians to strive after reunion on the basis of Establishment. But if anyone supposes that such reunion is possible and that the Free and United Presbyterian Churches may yet make a concordat with the Established Church, he is mistaken. There are those in multitudes still left in Scotland who have a mind on this subject, who will never, under any circumstances, become connected with a State Church, who would break away from any denomination, however dear, that compromised its position on this subject. Our best hope for Non-conformity is that the Churches should, all of them, become more full of a whole-hearted faith in the renewing and transforming and all-sufficient energies of the Holy Spirit. The Churches are never so powerful and so safe as when in full possession of those principles and in absolute dependence on their Head. We need nothing but Jesus Christ Himself, and cleaving to Him, may calmly await the future. He says to us, "Find in Me thine All in All," and we know Him in Whom we have believed.

THE MODERATOR OF THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH.

Dr. Mair is a typical Aberdonian, having first seen the light in the parish of New Deer, in the district known as Buchan, in the year 1830. His father was a schoolmaster and subsequently took to farming. After receiving the elements of his education at his father's school,



DR. MAIR.

Dr. Mair passed the Grammar School of Aberdeen and thence to Marischal College and University, Aberdeen. His course, both in arts and theology, was very distinguished, and at the age of 23 he was licensed as a preacher by the Presbytery of Aberdeen.

Dr. Mair was never a robust man, and this more than any other thing may have hindered him from attaining that wider popularity which his abilities deserved. At the very outset of his career, when he had been appointed assistant to the Rev. Dr. Patterson, in the Old Kirk Parish, Montrose, his health gave way, and he was compelled, for the next six years, to discontinue active duties. Rest and change of scene, however, so far restored him that, after a short assistantship in Campsie, he was able, in 1861, to accept a call from Lochgelly, in Fife. Here he did excellent work. During his three years' pastorate, his congregation, which was composed mainly of miners, increased considerably; and, by means of his zeal and devotedness, he was instrumental in raising a sum of £1,000 locally for the purpose of erecting the Parish of Lochgelly. The years he spent here were years of activity; but there was still more arduous work before him. In 1868, after a short stay at Ardoch, he received the presentation of Earlston, where, till now, he has laboured

assiduously, the record of his work, both religious and social, being something marvellous. As Dr. Scott, the retiring Moderator, said of him, Dr. Mair is a man who never flinched from any service which he thought he could render to advance the spiritual and the temporal interests of the people committed to his care. As a Presbyterian, he has been most exemplary in the discharge of his duties to the Presbytery, to the Synod, and to the General Assembly, and to the business of the Church at large. By his well-known work, "Digests of Church Law," he has left his marks upon the past legislation of the Assembly, and laid every minister and elder of the Church under the greatest obligation. The honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him by his *Alma Mater*, in 1885.

The Doctor is a thoroughgoing Temperance reformer. Those who knew Earlston thirty years ago will see a remarkable change in the town since then, due mainly to the exertions of Dr. Mair. The story is told that the Doctor was exceedingly anxious to close a certain public-house, which, notwithstanding his efforts, seemed unassailable. To buy it up was rather a bold stroke of business, but that was the only means of crushing it. To-day the same house is now in full swing as a commercial temperance hotel.

Dr. Mair is greatly interested in educational matters, and for many years has been a hard-working member of the Earlston School Board. While at Ardoch he married Miss Isabella Edward, a lady who, during his many years of wedded life, has proved an invaluable helpmeet to her husband, assisting in many ways in the performance of his multifarious duties.

CARE OF BOOKS.

Even to those who are most careful and particular with their loved and treasured libraries, accidents will happen, and the human bookworm is at his or her wits' end to remove the difficulty, which threatens perhaps to ruin forever one or more of the choicest volumes.

An English magazine lately published the following items, which will probably be found useful by any librarian:

To remove ink stains from books, take a small quantity of oxalic acid, diluted with water, and apply with a camel's hair pencil and blot with blotting paper. This will, with two applications, remove all traces of the ink.

To remove grease spots, lay powdered pipeclay each side of the spot and press with an iron as hot as the paper will bear without scorching.

To remove iron mold, apply first a solution of sulphuret of potash and afterwards one of oxalic acid. The sulphuret acts on the iron.

To polish old bindings, thoroughly clean the leather by rubbing with a piece of flannel. If the leather is broken, fill up the holes with a little paste; beat up the yolk of an egg and rub it well over the covers with a piece of sponge; polish it by passing a hot iron over.

Do not allow books to be very long in too warm a place; gas affects them very much, Russia leather in particular.

Do not let books get damp or they will soon mildew, and it is almost impossible to remove it.

Books with clasps or raised sides damage those near them on the shelves.—*Inland Printer.*

ARE YOU SAFE?

It is said of Oliver Cromwell that he asked a Christian minister to tell him the lowest evidence of a Christian experience. On receiving it, he remarked, "Then I am safe."

Had Cromwell inquired for the highest evidence of the new life in Christ, and then vowed to realize it in his own life, he would have manifested more of the truly Christlike spirit. The purpose of religion is not to see how little of it we can endure in order to escape hell, but how much of it we can enjoy in order to bless this world and be ready for a better one when called hence. Too many people are reckoning on the good luck of a scant admission into paradise. They act as if they consider this earth the only heaven worth living for, and that the future heaven is simply the escape-place from a seething hell. Away with this. It is not the religion of Him who uttered the words, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."—J. H. Potts, D.D.

Silence is sometimes more significant and sublime than the most noble and most expressive eloquence, and is on many occasions the indication of a great mind.—Addison