

# The Presbyterian Review.

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Toronto, January 31, 1895.

## Man and Minister.

"IS a man less a man because he is a minister?" asks *The Evangelist*. The question is suggested to our contemporary by the proceedings of the recent meeting of the Presbytery of New York with respect to Rev. Dr. Parkhurst. At the meeting referred to a resolution was moved that the Presbytery should express its appreciation of the efforts of Dr. Parkhurst "to improve the morals of our city by arousing the public conscience," etc. In the resolution was also an expression of satisfaction that Dr. Parkhurst's action was free from any element of a political character. One of the members of Presbytery, Rev. Dr. Mullaly, objected to the resolution on the ground that Dr. Parkhurst did not use the weapons put into his hands by Jesus Christ. Christ gave him only the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. There is no denying that the question raised is very important according to the conscientious view of many fathers and brethren. There are those who would make "a man less a man because he is a minister," and there are plausible enough reasons why they do so. On the whole we think they are mistaken. We agree that the great duty of the minister is to preach the Gospel, but that fact should not be held as depriving him of the right to use every lawful weapon against the prevailing sins of the age,—such as intemperance, gambling, immorality, Sabbath desecration, and the corruption of the public morals. When a minister finds himself called upon to enter the arena against these and other such evils, he needs all the wisdom and divine guidance requisite for the sacred duties lying more immediately in his beaten path. It is easy to make a mistake in tactics which may result in disaster, but as between right methods and the right to act, there is a fundamental difference, and the difficulties surrounding duty do not relieve a minister of the responsibilities of duty. Indeed it were well were there more outspokenness in the pulpit and on the platform against venality and corruption in public life. The ministers ought to lead the attack on every form of

wickedness and they ought to be loyally followed by professing Christians of the rank and file.

## God's Ancient People.

A most interesting memorial volume, has been recently published in London, to commemorate the Jubilee of "The British Society for the Propagation of the Gospel among the Jews."\* This Society was formed in 1842, by Robert Murray McCheyne and Andrew Bonar, among others, as a result of their visit to the Holy Land. It celebrated its Jubilee service on 7th of November 1892, in Exeter Hall, London, in presence of a large number of its sympathising friends, and helpers. During those fifty years, a great work has been earnestly and patiently carried on, with corresponding results. But one agent was employed at first by the Society, whereas now there are at home and abroad 26 missionaries, besides a great number of voluntary assistants. It is said that there are 2,000 Hebrew Christians in Berlin, and 3,000 in Great Britain and Ireland. It is further stated that some 1,500 Jews unite with the Church of Christ, every year. The late Prof Tholuck affirmed that more Jews have been converted to the faith of the Gospel during the present century, than during the whole previous Christian era, the number being reckoned at 100,000. It is certainly very cheering to learn that so large a number of the ancient people of God have believed in Christ, and confessed Him before men. And we may well believe that they will constitute an important factor in the evangelization of their fellow countrymen, until all Israel shall be saved. Many interesting accounts are given of conversions of Jews, and of the Society's agents and workers. Nor must it be forgotten that one of the most eminent Presbyterian Ministers of London, England, the late Rev. Dr. Saphir, was a converted Jew. And he is only one of many such distinguished theologians and scholars. Here and there are incidents of great interest especially intended to attract the young. The book is handsomely gotten up, containing 250 portraits and illustrations, of exceedingly good quality. It is well adapted for the Christian family library, as well as to instruct its members, and lead them to take a deep concern in the conversion of God's ancient people. It is edited by the Rev. John Dunlop, the Secretary of the Society, and editor of the *Jewish Herald*. It forms the most reliable history of Jewish Evangelization, and is hereby cordially commended to the families of our Church.

## History of Knox College.

It is no small task that has been assumed by the Board of Management of Knox College in undertaking a history of the College since its inception fifty years ago. At first glance neither the difficulties nor the importance of such a work might be apparent to the average layman; but when one considers the kind of institution a theological seminary is,—its varied duties, its associations, etc., and the influence it bears on the thought of the Church, the magnitude of the work can be understood. The purpose to publish such a book is most laudable. It is due to two causes, 1st, the natural period in its history, sealed by fifty years service, celebrated so worthily by the Jubilee ceremonies last fall, and 2nd, the fact that there is an important story

\*Memories of Gospel triumphs among the Jews during the Victorian Era.