

and discouragements are his—we are just as liable to them on the home field, and in either case do not look forward to a life of unruffled ease. Are we ambitious? Do we hope to shine some day as scholars? Then nowhere is there greater scope for scholarly attainments, abilities and zeal. The very best men are needed. When Dr. Geddie wrote, "Keep all-the-men-you-can-spare at home, and send those you find it most difficult to part with," he pithily expressed the general sentiment of the present day. The time has fortunately gone by when "any dry old stick" would be considered fit for this, the most difficult position in the whole range of Christian activity. As Dr. Wardrope showed in his missionary address, reported in another column, many ministers get on tolerably well at home, because they are upheld and cheered by the mindful presence of friends; but if bereft of the inspiration given by these and removed to the dark places of the earth they would very likely prove miserable failures. At the same time, while granting that the best men are needed abroad, it strikes us that less clever workers are needed also. The church is not wholly made up of Duffs and Morrisons and Careys, any more than the world is wholly made up of Shakespeares and Macaulays and Gladstones. The lesser lights have their place in the firmament as well as the greater, and without them the latter would lose much of their brilliancy. When a few of the bright stars only are shining the illumination they afford is comparatively feeble; but taken in conjunction with the obscurer planets they produce the beautiful clearness of twilight. Still it is very important that the highest talent should be consecrated to the spiritual illumination of the world. How this consecration may be best accomplished is becoming one of the problems of the day. Mr. James Croil, in his recent hand-book on missions, proposes to solve it by translating some of the leading home ministers to the foreign field, urging that no valid objection could be raised on the score of "limited usefulness," because conversions are thirty times more numerous in heathen countries than in Christian. But he seems to overlook a fact that weighs both in the interests of the heathen at home and of those abroad; we refer to the peculiar disadvantages that would arise from a want of special training in early life. A man whose habits and methods have been formed during a protracted pastorate, for instance, and who has become accustomed to the manifold comforts of civilization, would be greatly inconvenienced (to say the least) by the barbarities with which he would at first have to contend in heathen regions. Besides this, if he were of an advanced age, he would encounter additional difficulty in trying to master the arbitrary modulations of a foreign tongue. Now, without forgetting the wise old saying, "Let not him that girdeth on his harness boast himself as he that putteth it off," we respectfully maintain that young men are better qualified or becoming missionaries than even ministers in the

prime of life. In the young, habits of thought and life can be easily moulded in directions desirable for particular spheres, and as their memories are fresh, they would have less trouble in learning languages. The multitudes throughout our Dominion, who yearly turn expectant eyes toward the graduating classes of the seminaries, are therefore justified in depending upon the youth of the church to undertake this momentous work.

THE CELTIC SOCIETY OF MONTREAL.

WE hail with delight the organization of this Society, and hope from time to time to hear of its achievements. The enthusiasm with which it was formed augurs well for the future. It is wisely placed on a thoroughly catholic basis, as suggested by Principal Macvicar in his opening remarks. The articles of the constitution are so framed as to unite in effort all who desire in any way to advance the knowledge of Celtic lore. By means of corresponding members and otherwise friendly intercourse will be maintained with other institutions and scholars in Canada and the Old World who are engaged in similar researches. The Society has its home appropriately in Montreal, the great Canadian centre of commercial enterprise and increasing educational activity and influence. It has also put itself into living connection with a large and highly intelligent Celtic population in the neighbourhood by electing as its first Honorary President John MacLennan, Esq., ex-M.P., for Glengarry, and the Rev. Dr. Macnish, of Cornwall, as President.

We congratulate the members upon their happy choice in both cases. No truer Celts than these two gentlemen could be found in Canada. Mr. MacLennan is a man of liberal culture, whose services to his country are well known, and who has already done much to encourage the study of Celtic literature.

Of Dr. Macnish's qualifications and erudition in this and other departments it is quite unnecessary to say anything to students of this College who are privileged to listen to his lectures. The Vice-Presidents, Secretaries, and other officers appear to have been all chosen with a due regard to the fitness of things, and we shall, no doubt, soon learn of a long list of members and honorary members being enrolled.

But it may be asked: What do they hope to accomplish? Is not the field which they propose to cultivate small and barren? By no means. According to the testimony of competent authorities it is just the reverse, rich and extensive, affording unlimited scope for philological, ethnic and historical investigations. Many who have Celtic blood in their veins fail, we fear, to appreciate the antiquity and glory of their ancestry, and the Society may do much to remedy this state of things, and to diffuse correct information respecting linguistic, poetic and historical treasures which have been too long neglected.