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NOW READY.

PRESBYTERIAN YEAR BOOK

FOR THE
DOMINION OF CANADA AND NEWFOUNDLAND,
FOR 1890.

In addition to the usual contents, the following papers appear in the issue for 1890: The Moderator, Home Missions, by Rev. William Cochrane, D.D.; Our Foreign Missions—a general survey, by James Croil, Montreal; The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, by a member of the Central Board; Our Sabbath School Work: Its Present Condition and Pressing Needs, by W. N. Hossie, Brantford; Sabbath Observance, by a Layman; Young Ladies' Colleges, by J. Knowles, jr.; Our Maritime Synod, by Rev. Dr. Burns, Halifax; American Presbyterianism, by Rev. A. T. Wolf, D.D., Ph.D., Alton, Ill.; Home and Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Churches of Scotland, William Johnston, Wamphray, Scotland; The Presbyterian Church in Ireland, by Samuel Houston, M.A., Kingston; Sketches of St. David's Church, St. John N.B.; St. Andrew's Church, Windsor, and Knox Church, Winnipeg.

PRESS OPINIONS.

It contains a list of the Moderators of the Church, a record of notable events, officers, committees and boards of the General Assembly, information about home and foreign missions, members of Presbyteries and Synods, a list of the ministers of the Church, etc. Every Presbyterian should have a copy.—*Hamilton Times*.

The PRESBYTERIAN YEAR BOOK is a neat little publication of 120 pages, containing a great amount of useful information relating to the Presbyterian Church in this country, and its work at home and abroad. It also contains papers dealing with the Church in Scotland, Ireland and the United States.—*The Mail*.

It is set up in a very neat and attractive, and the arrangement inside is as carefully done. It will be difficult for any loyal Presbyterian to get along without it.—*Guelph Mercury*.

This publication is one of the best of its class in Canada. The YEAR BOOK is beautifully printed, making it a most attractive volume.—*The Globe*.

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Notes of the Week.

MR. D. L. MOODY has been conducting evangelistic meetings in London, Ont. They have been very largely attended. The distinguished evangelist is as earnest, fervid, direct and evangelical in his mode of address as ever.

THE *Christian Leader* says: Canon Fremantle, who is doing Jerome for Dr. Schaff's series of early Christian Fathers, remarked to an American visitor the other day. When I see such men as Chalmers and Tholuck, I have little patience with the theory that denies them a place among true ministers of Christ, to give a monopoly of sacramental magic to those in the historic succession.

A MOVEMENT is on foot to celebrate in a suitable manner the centenary of the death of John Howard. That great philanthropist, for whom unselfish labour on behalf of prisoners won immortal fame, died on January 20, 1790, at Kherson, in Russia. An influential committee has been formed by the mayor of Bedford, his native city, with a view to the proper celebration of the event. Howard's labours were much appreciated in Russia, and the Czar's government has offered a handsome money prize for the best essay on prisons and prison discipline as its memorial to the great prison reformer.

IN the delightful new volume of "Letters," Dr. Ker writes, under date December 2, 1875, on the approaching appointment of United Presbyterian Professors: Some of us have a strong opinion that we should look for the best men anywhere—men of faith and life in any land or Church. I would take one at least from the continent—a man like Naville or Christlieb. It would freshen our thinking and make us more Catholic every way. But I fear we are still too "Philistine," and the common view is, "Have we not good enough men of our own?" So every Presbytery and Mutual Admiration Society blows the trumpet of its little hero.

DR. BERSIER'S last discourse, uttered a few hours before his death, was given at the M'All Mission Hall in the Boulevard Ornano, Paris, where he had been in the habit of delivering a popular lecture on the Monday of every week for several years past. It was his most cherished wish that he should be removed whilst still on his feet and intent on his work, and this desire has been granted. One of his latest works was the drawing up of a liturgy which the French synods are at present studying, and which the forthcoming General Synod will be invited definitely to adopt or to reject. His seven volumes of sermons have been translated into almost every European tongue.

EX-PROVOST SWAN, of Kirkcaldy, a man widely known, died lately. The event was not unexpected, the deceased gentleman, though ever cheerful, having been seriously ill for several weeks and under medical treatment. The late ex-Provost was born on August 19, 1808. He was a warm supporter of the Free Church, with which he has been connected since Disruption days, taking a deep interest in its missionary and evangelical work. Mr. Swan was, so far as is known, the last survivor of Carlyle's pupils at the Kirkcaldy Burgh School. He well remembered the rigour with which Carlyle used to administer discipline, with the help of the "tawse," on careless or disrespectful boys.

RECENT accounts state that the revolt in the United Presbyterian Hall still continues at an acute stage. A committee of students, five from each year, are conducting negotiations with the college committee. The complaint is against Prof. Johnston that he teaches as if all his students were beginners in exegesis and that he omits all reference to modern thought on the ground that students would make better ministers if they knew less of German criticism. The fifteen delegates who appeared before the College Committee were asked to give specific examples of lectures to which they objected, but this they did not find themselves prepared to do. Their complaint referred to the general line of Professor Johnston's teaching, which they said gave little stimulus to their studies. As a result of the conference, which lasted about four hours, the matter was remitted to a small sub-committee for consideration.

A PRIVATE conference of a number of ministers and elders of the Free Church in Glasgow and district was held recently in the Religious Institution Rooms, to consider what steps should be taken in regard to the views enunciated by Dr. Marcus Dods. Regret was expressed that men who were untrue to the well-understood creed of the Church should have found their way into Theological Chairs; and a committee was appointed to collate the objectionable passages in the writings of Professors Dods and Bruce and report. The circular to attend this meeting was signed by the following: Revs. Wm. Ross, Andrew A. Bonar, D.D.; Hugh Mair, John J. Mackay, John Riddell, Gilbert Lawrie and Robt. Howie, of Glasgow; Revs. Matthew G. Easton, D.D., Darvel, George Wallace, Hamilton; John M'Fwan, Rosneath; William Findlay, Larkhall, and Peter Thomson, Greenock.

A SCOTCH minister, the Rev. C. M'Neil, of St. George's, Dumfries, finds in the policy of Joseph when governor of Egypt a contribution to the vexed question of the better housing of the poor. The whole resources of the land were used as a trust for the well-being of the people. The ruling idea was that against the return of prosperity they would be properly housed and fed and equipped for industry. It is a fearful blot on our Christian civilization that there should be such a destitute population—thousands upon thousands living under the eye of boundless wealth herded together like wild beasts in their dens in the very heart of London, with the young growing up in the knowledge of nothing beyond vice and crime. The difficulties surrounding the question are doubtless enormous but Christianity is bound to face them and find a way of asserting and exerting its beneficent powers.

THE *Indian Standard*, referring to the Rev. James Gray, Ajmere, one of the pioneer missionaries of the Scotch United Presbyterian Church in India, says: One of the pleasantest duties that fell to both the committee and the Presbytery of Rajputana mission at their half-yearly conference, was the presenting of addresses of congratulation to Mr. Gray, of Ajmere, on the occasion of his semi-jubilee. Mr. Gray has laboured all these years with an ability, an earnestness, and devotedness that are worthy of all praise. His knowledge of Hindi and Urdu is the admiration and envy of his younger brethren, and is so idiomatic as to deceive native listeners into a belief of his Hindu origin. He has rendered service to the whole Church of India by his translations of some of our most popular hymns, and he is at present a member of the Hindi Testament Revision

Committee. He is the third of our missionaries to attain his semi-jubilee, and, with Dr. Shoolbred and Mr. Robb, looks as fit for work as the very youngest of us.

THE *British Weekly* says: "An Old Shepherd" sends us a little tract on the inefficiency of the ministry movement, "A Remedy for Ministerial Inefficiency." His plan to secure an efficient ministry would be to have a re-election of ministers in all congregations for five or seven years. Ministers, of course, to have the same opportunity during that time as they have at present—namely, to accept a call from another congregation, but at the end of five or seven years from a minister's ordination or induction congregations to be bound to make a new election; the present minister always to be a candidate if he choose, along with not fewer than other two, one of whom to be chosen for a short tect with the present minister; and each member of the congregation to be supplied at their own homes with a voting paper, to be returned as directed in sealed envelope. We cannot conceive of any plan more likely to lead to misery and heart-burning all round than this. The fact is, congregations as a rule have pretty good powers of protecting themselves against an inefficient ministry, and do not hesitate to use them. If things go on as they are doing no man will enter the Dissenting ministry, when so many excellent openings are presented by the strikes of the gas stokers and other workmen.

A CONFERENCE of ministers of the Free Church in the Northern Synods was held at Inverness to consider the doctrines propounded by Dr. Marcus Dods. There were two meetings. The first one, held in the forenoon, was for ministers and office-bearers only, and was private. Dr. Aird, Ex-Moderator of the General Assembly, occupied the chair, and two motions were unanimously carried. The first one expressed the conviction that it was the duty of the northern ministers to unite and assist one another in endeavouring to uphold and defend evangelical truth according to the Westminster Standards. The second called upon the College Committee to inquire into the views of Dr. Dods and to take steps to allay the fears which have been excited, and do justice to all the important interests in the case. A large public meeting was held in the evening in the music hall. Four resolutions were put and carried. The first motion protested against Dr. Dods' views as seriously affecting the doctrines of grace. The second, which urged that these views be authoritatively and immediately dealt with, was moved by the Rev. Mr. Macaskill, who made a long speech in support of it. Various speakers supported the resolutions, most of them characterizing the views of Dr. Dods as heretical, and most disastrous to the Free Church.

A SCOTTISH contemporary says: The meeting in St. Andrew's Hall, Glasgow, perhaps the most magnificent demonstration in behalf of foreign missions ever witnessed in that city, was followed by a succession of well attended meetings in various towns in the west of Scotland. Everywhere a profound impression was made by Dr. Pierson's stirring appeals, and more especially by the figures which he gave, showing how by the self-denial of professing Christians the Gospel might be preached to every creature on the globe in twenty-five years. At the Port-Glasgow evening meeting Mr. Alexander, from Jamaica, drew a vivid picture of the benefits conferred by Christianity on that island, which he effectively contrasted with the neighbouring island of Hayti. Mrs. Armstrong, who addressed the ladies' meeting along with Dr. Pierson, described the work of the Karen mission in Burmah. At Dumbarton the chair was occupied at the evening meeting by Mr. Peter Denny, father of the late William Denny, whose name is now so well known among the churches through the memoir by Prof. Bruce. At Helensburgh Mr. Ross from Manchuria was one of the speakers, and gave reasons from his own experience, showing the necessity of multiplying lady missionaries. Dr. Pierson, referring to the fact that Mr. Ross had urged the ladies to go out and try missionary work for a period of five years, expressed his conviction that if they once went abroad to proclaim the glad tidings to the heathen they would not be likely to wish to return.