

JUBILEE OF REV. P. DUNCAN.

Cobourg, Ont., Jan. 3.—The Jubilee of the Rev. Peter McLaren Duncan's fifty years in the ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and of his pastorate of the Colborne Church, was fittingly celebrated at Colborne on Monday evening. The Synod of Toronto and Kingston, of which the Rev. Mr. Duncan is Moderator, the Presbytery of Peterboro, of which he is also the Moderator, and his congregations at Colborne and Lakeport united to show him honor upon this occasion, the church being crowded to the doors with a most interested and sympathetic audience. It was a unique and memorable occasion. Seldom indeed is it given to a minister to labor for half a century in the ministry rarer still does one minister for that length of time to the same congregation. Yet in December 1857, the Rev. Peter McLaren Duncan filled with the vigor and enthusiasm of youth, came to labor in Colborne. Since that time he has gone in and out among his people, the sharer of their joys, the bearer of their sorrows, their adviser in times of difficulty, in hours of discouragement a sympathetic friend. It is small wonder that his loved form is at most regarded as a part of each household and his name is known and honored not only throughout Northumberland County, but largely throughout the Province. The Synod of Toronto and Kingston was represented by two classmates of the reverend gentleman, the Rev. Dr. McLaren, of Knox College, Toronto, and the Rev. Dr. Carmichael, of Kingston, who gave appropriate and able addresses, presenting felicitations and congratulations on behalf of their many brethren in the ministry not privileged to be present. The Rev. D. A. Thompson Hastings, his oldest collaborator in the Peterborough Presbytery, and the Rev. Wm. Beattie, Cobourg, representing the younger ministers in the Presbytery presented congratulations on behalf of that body and the Rev. C. S. Lord, Fenelon Falls, on behalf of the Presbytery of Lindsay.

By the Synod of Toronto and Kingston Mr. Duncan was presented with an illuminated address; by the Peterborough Presbytery with a purse of gold, and his congregations at Colborne and Lakeport presented him with an address, and Mrs. Duncan, his faithful adviser and helper, with a purse of gold. To these manifestations of appreciation and regard Mr. Duncan made suitable and feeling reply.

Some few months ago Mr. Duncan resigned from the active work, his resignation to go into effect at the completion of his fifty years pastorate. The congregations have extended a call to the Rev. Mr. Thornton, of Knox College, who at a special meeting of Presbytery held yesterday was licensed to preach, and in about three weeks' time will be ordained and inducted. On the first Sunday in January the pulpit for the first time in fifty years will be declared vacant.

Canadian Baptist: The one hard, stubborn fact that is breaking the hearts of the pastors and directing discussion to the passing away of the churches is that the people do not come out to the preaching services of the churches, at least to the second service. The members and those who have grown up under Christian influences will attend the morning service. In so doing they feel they have discharged their Christian duty. Their indifference as to the evening service is made the excuse by non-church members and the worldly and pleasure seeking not to go, and the pews in the evening are unfilled."

He who mixes with unclean things becomes unclean himself; he whose associations are pure, becomes purer each day.—Talmud.

SPARKS FROM OTHER ANVILS.

Philadelphia Westminster: God does not always come across lots to the human heart. There is oftentimes a way farther round that is more sure.

Morning Star: The miserable can't see an education for shame in peace and disgrace in war. From a drunken army and a drunken navy, the prayer of patriotism will ever be, good Lord deliver us.

Presbyterian Witness: Give your countenance and aid to all who pity the destitute, who stretch forth the kindly hand to save, who heal the sick and raise the fallen, feed the hungry and clothe the naked, and minister at the bed of weariness and pain.

Central Presbyterian: The New Year is a good time, it has been said, for returning borrowed property. Not the umbrella only, though one might begin with that, but the books. We have returned one already, and are looking for others. Then one might return a note of thanks for the kindness shown, or make some evident return of the affection given us by wife or mother or sister.

Michigan Presbyterian: A prominent elder in the Monroe Presbytery thinks there ought never to be any "age limit" for ministers. He says: "I believe in the older men and love them best." That sounds good. It is as welcome as a Christmas gift. The gray-haired veterans ought to cheer up and take heart to know they are "loved best." The younger men will come in for their full share after they have fought as many battles.

Lutheran Observer: After we have joined ourselves in faith to God, after we have the divine life and strength imparted to our faculties, after we can say: "Christ liveth in me," then we have no right to say we can do nothing, stand nothing, encounter nothing, but we hear the jubilant, triumphant tone that is to pervade our life in the words: "I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me."

Sunday School Times: Life in a world where sin was not punished would be unthinkable horrible. It would mean that God did not care what became of us. We could continue a downhill course without any warning signals. The principal of one of our theological seminaries was, toward the end of his life, partially paralyzed. One day his hand fell upon a hot water heater, and, as his nerves sent no message of pain to his brain, he was terribly burned without knowing it. Penally for wrongdoing is a sign of our Father's loving care for his children. But pain does not cure disease; it only shows its presence.

Canadian Churchman: To-day the air is full of social schemes to aid the cause of Christianity. We should remember that Christianity is not at fault. The trouble is that its professors have failed to apply its principles to the varying needs of social life. They have been too self-centered and self-satisfied. Content with their own affairs and the social intercourse of their own circles of friends, the mass of outside humanity has been calmly ignored. Now that the Salvation Army and other efforts along that line have attracted the public Church people are being roused to adapt themselves to the new order of things. As we have repeatedly said where the Church should have led it is a follower. Now the danger is that the enthusiasm along social lines may blind the enthusiasts to the main principles for which the Church stands. This is a rock to be avoided.

There is immense satisfaction in standing by what one believes to be the truth, even though one may not be successful.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

Gipsy Smith will conduct a ten days' mission in Assembly Hall, Belfast, beginning on February 15 next.

Scottish bagpipes have just been used for the first time at meetings of the Salvation Army, and a band of pipes are shortly to be introduced to London.

In consequence of the appearance of the Asiatic bubonic plague at Seattle, every vessel in the harbor has been ordered fumigated. This includes ferry boats and everything afloat that may contain a rat.

Rev. J. G. Semple, a minister of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., has applied to the Assembly for admission as a minister without charge, and Belfast Presbytery has recommended the application.

Throughout the Church much interest is being taken in the appointment of a successor to the late Rev. Dr. Blair, of St. John's church, Edinburgh. The committee have gone over the names of a large number of ministers, and have meantime reduced the list to twenty.

The Glasgow College has at present in attendance at its classes over ninety students, including over twenty foreign students. A new departure has been made this year by the admission of three lady students to the theological classes, which have hitherto consisted of male students only. The three theological lady students are Americans.

An appeal has been issued on behalf of dispossessed congregations of the United Free Church of Scotland. Of the sum of £150,000 required, over £50,000, it is stated, has been raised privately, Lord Overton heading the list with £10,000, and Mr. John S. Kennedy, of New York, contributing £5,000. The present public appeal is now issued to congregations.

Sir George B. Bruce, the Church's "Nestor," who is now unable through the infirmities of age to take any part in its public work, attained the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to the eldership on Friday last. He was ordained at Berwick on Tweed in connection with the congregation of which the late Rev. Principal John Cairns, D.D., was minister.

A severe earthquake shock lasting six minutes was felt throughout the entire Japanese Empire from Hokkaido to the Bonin Islands. It occurred at 2:17 o'clock on the morning of November 22, and fortunately, no damage was done. Hokkaido and the Bonin Islands are respectively the most northerly and southerly islands of the Japanese archipelago. The earthquake area embraces over 1,000 miles of coast line.

At a recent meeting of the Church Union Association in Edinburgh, Mr. T. T. Maclagan, who presided, said the differences between the Churches were important in themselves, but they were on a different platform from the work which the Churches had before them—their real work. He was afraid they in Scotland for many years allowed these differences to usurp the place that really did not belong to them, and had therefore allowed them to do an amount of harm which it would take them a very considerable time to make up. For this state of matters he thought the blame lay partly on the clerical and partly on the lay side. He called on his fellow-laymen to do all they could to break down the barriers between the Churches. There was a good time coming, when this scandal and weakness would come to an end.

Herald and Presbyter: Every Christian should resolve to make this a year filled with usefulness in Christ's service. We ought to be determined to do what we can to advance his kingdom among men. One can at least be useful.