

in our own denomination will continue to do in the future as they have done in the past, preach faithfully Jesus Christ and Him crucified; for it pleases God by the foolishness of such preaching to save them that believe; and we are firmly persuaded that it is owing to increased faithfulness on their part in this matter that God has been pleased of late to pour out his Spirit upon the Churches and to add daily unto them of such as are saved.

THE CROSS AND THE CRESCENT.

The fact that Russia has proclaimed war against Turkey, and has already commenced operations both on the Danube and in Asia Minor, will not take any of our readers by surprise. To most of us it has been apparent for some time, that Russia wanted war, and was endeavouring to force Turkey into such a position that the onus of the strife should rest solely on her.

In this the Czar has only been partially successful; the war has become an accomplished fact, but in making it so Russia has not succeeded in keeping the sympathies of the rest of Europe. None know this better than the Cabinet at St. Petersburg, hence it is that they are careful to proclaim that the war is not one of conquest, but merely for the protection and relief of their christian brethren who are suffering under the misrule of Turkey. Whether or not these brethren would be any better off under the *gentle sway* of the "Colossus of the North," is a question which would bear considerable discussion. Judging from the conditions of the Polish provinces of Russia, and the atrocities which have so often been perpetrated there, we should say that from Turkish to Russian rule would be like getting "out of the frying-pan into the fire."

Meanwhile the thunder of artillery, and the rattle of musketry are heard all along the Turkish frontier. Armies are marching and counter-marching, reserves are being hurried forward with every possible despatch, and from every town and hamlet governed by Czar or Sultan, is heard the din of warlike preparation.

The rest of the European powers are looking eagerly on as interested spectators,

who may, by a single turn of the wheel be plunged into the very thickest of the strife. In Europe, to-day, there are nearly four millions of soldiers under arms, who only await the signal which will launch them, like hounds unleashed, into all the ferocity of deadly combat. This "armed peace," seems to be about as expensive as war, if we can judge from the financial condition of several of the powers who are keeping up these huge armies at the expense of their manufacturing and commercial interests. What the end will be, whether the war will be confined to the original combatants, or may embroil the rest of Europe, whether it may result in the expulsion of the Turks from Europe or the absolute recovery of the "sick man," by a course of treatment the reverse of homeopathic, is a problem which no human being can solve. The result is known to God alone, and in his hand we are content to leave the issue, knowing that "He doeth all things well." We can, however, pray that He may so overrule what seems to be a crisis in the world's history, so that lasting good may result from it, and that millions of human beings who are at present sunk in darkness and ignorance, may be brought to the knowledge of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and be liberated from a more frightful bondage than ever oppressed them under the rule of the Turk.

REV. A. H. MUNRO.

In another part of this journal will be found the farewell sermon preached at Alexander St. Church in this city on Sunday P. M. the 29th ult. It will repay a careful perusal. In the departure of its author to another field of Christian labour, Toronto is deprived of one of its ablest preachers and platform speakers, and the loss is felt by many warm admirers in other churches as well as Alexander Street.

Mr. Munro settled as pastor of the Alexander Street Church in September 1869. His ministry there was marked by a steady, quiet progress, both in the ingathering of precious souls, and the edification of the church. In 1869 the membership was 110, now it is about 260—a very gratifying increase, all things considered, during a ministry of seven and a half years.

As a preacher Mr. Munro excels, and there are few abler men in the Baptist Ministry of Ontario and Quebec to-day. His expositions, built upon a solid Scriptural basis, are sound, logical, and without thoroughly original. Being a man of varied and extensive reading in science and literature; and, being possessed of the happy endowment of being able not only to retain, but to impart to others the results of that reading, his company is always pleasant and profitable to those privileged to enjoy it.

As an enthusiastic friend of the Sunday School, he has made his mark at several of the great Institutes, Conventions and Parliaments now so popular.

He is thoroughly Baptist, and during his residence in Toronto was heartily in sympathy with every movement, having for its object the extension of our denominational principles both in the city and the province. His recent report, as chairman of the committee in charge of the Baptist Mission in Barrie, made at the semi-annual meeting at Woodstock was a masterly plea for aggressive work in that very important town. For five years he was the honoured President of the Toronto Baptist Missionary Union; and the Board of that Society has put on record its high appreciation of the valuable services rendered by him.

Mr. Munro, as our readers are no doubt aware, has accepted the urgent call of the 1st Baptist Church, Montreal, to become its pastor. He entered on his labours there on Lord's day the 6th of May, preaching his first sermon from the very appropriate words in 1 Thess. 5: 25, "Brethren, pray for us."

We wish both pastor and people a long and blessed union together; and congratulate our brethren of Montreal and the Eastern Convention on the new accession to their ministerial ranks.

"THE IMPORTANCE AND UTILITY OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE."—We have pleasure in presenting to our readers the first half of the very excellent paper on the above subject, read by Rev. D. McNeill of Paisley, before the recent Alumni Meeting at the C. L. Institute, Woodstock. The balance will appear in our next issue. The essay was considered a very masterly one by all who had the pleasure of hearing it read.