

DONALD MCGILLIVRAY, '88, will be ordained missionary to Honan, China, in St. James Square church, Toronto, on Thursday evening, 11th inst. He leaves for his field early the following week. J. S. Gale and R. Harkness, both Knox-Varsity men, will start for Corea soon afterwards. Gale goes as missionary under the University College Y.M.C.A. Harkness will be supported by a few private friends in Toronto, all or nearly all of whom are Presbyterians. Both movements will be without any denominational connection. One cannot but rejoice at such tokens of interest and devotion. It is a question, however, whether independence is an advantage. Sporadic missionary effort has frequently proved a failure. We sincerely trust these missions may be richly blessed.

THE wreck of genius is a lamentable sight. The drivelling of a once brilliant intellect is pitiable. How many minds of the finest texture have been suddenly and hopelessly shattered! What bright-shining luminaries have strayed from their orbits! Edward Irving and John Cumming are sad spectacles in history. Now come reports of the intellectual break-down of one of England's foremost characters—Dr. Joseph Parker, of the City Temple. His letters to leading London dailies are not the only evidence of mental aberration. But those letters would convince the most sceptical. This is another instance of overstraining. No man, not even a confessed genius like Joseph Parker, can do the work he attempted. His prodigious "People's Bible" would exhaust the energies of a dozen. His sermons and lectures involved great labor. Parker was undoubtedly a great man. He had marvellous ability, and he let nothing go to waste. His published works show great research. Every paragraph is polished to a high degree. His genius was of a different type to that of Beecher, and his work was more conscientious and more exhausting. Parker made the most of himself; Beecher did not. There was no "loafing of genius" about Parker as there was about Beecher. More vital force was expended in the preparation and delivery of one of Parker's sermons than in half a dozen of Beecher's. We do not say which man's work was the greater, or that the work of either will live. Both were geniuses. Both were "wandering stars." The course of each was clouded at its close. What a warning to lesser lights. A noble ship splendidly equipped goes down when the sea is calm, the sun shining and heaven all tranquillity. The quick-returning waters come together, the ripples are smoothed out and the sun shines on as before.