

our weak and struggling congregations and their struggling ministers which cannot be aroused, and loving and generous effort be put forth persistently in their behalf. It may be presumptuous to offer even a suggestion, but a bow-shot at a venture may be used by God for good. Might it not be worth trying, at least it would be a gracious thing, for our elders to take the cause and work of Augmentation largely upon themselves, to have it laid upon their consciences as a most beneficent and becoming thing for them to take hold of, and by some well devised method which would reach every Synod, every Presbytery, every congregation lift this fund out of its difficulties and set it on a solid and safe working basis." This we say while feeling nothing but admiration for the efforts and disinterested, self-sacrificing labours of those who, in spite of all indifference and inertia in the church in the past, have yet been enabled to do so much for the church by means of the Augmentation Fund, while at the same time they have failed to accomplish all they desired and hoped. There are in our elders business ability, the willingness to help, the tact, resource, fulness and power of appeal, and to set an example in supporting this fund, which it appears in some special way to need and which our elders are fitted to be leaders. It would bring comfort and cheer to many a minister's heart, and home, and family, if instead of retrenchment in salaries already too small, and the discouragement and crushing further of congregations weak now, and yet doing in many cases their utmost, and far more than the wealthy ones, it would be a boon to the whole church and an honor to the whole eldership, if by their prayers, and efforts, and executive ability they could wipe out what has been and threatens still further to be a reproach to our church, the chronic deficit and failure of the Augmentation Fund to meet the demands made upon it and fulfil its beneficent mission.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

THIS Assembly was opened under the most favourable circumstances in the Assembly Hall, Edinburgh, on the last day of May. The late Moderator, Rev. Walter C. Smith, delivered the opening sermon to a very large audience taking for his text the words "Preaching the Lord Jesus." This was the preaching, he said, which had turned the world upside down. He discussed the nature of the preaching in the text, particularly dwelling upon its personal element; and then examined the teaching of Jesus apart from the doctrine of His person. Its characteristic features he described as spiritual inwardness and boundless benevolence, while at the same time it was far from being a soft and flabby philanthropy. His sermon ended, Dr. Smith proposed as his successor Principal Douglas, and Mr. Stuart Gray seconding, the motion was agreed to. Dr. Douglas took the chair, and proceeded to deliver an opening address. It was largely a historical review of the Church's work. Missions, colleges, professors, and students claimed a good deal of attention in the address, and in passing a reference was made to the late Dr. Robertson Smith. He had often, the Moderator said, looked carefully at the late Professor's characteristic positions, and every re-examination confirmed him in rejecting them. Afterwards he spoke of the attitude the Church ought to take up towards social questions and social movements, and concluded with a reference to some of the leading members of the Church who had died during the year. Reports were presented in order, including finance, Assembly arrangements, education, publications, widows' fund, and Disruption records. In connection with the report on finance, a discussion arose respecting a loan by the Free Church to Lord Lovat, which it had been said was used to endow a Roman Catholic monastery at Fort Augustus. Dr. Rainy explained that the money had already been all spent by Lord Lovat, and was a burden on his estates. The report was adopted. From the report on Education it appeared that school boards have difficulty in getting teachers. Rev. Dr. McEwan said there was a tendency nowadays to the view that the Normal Colleges were no longer necessary. That, however, was a wrong view, for experience proved how important were the religious influences that were brought to bear on the teachers. The committee on Publications stated their finances to be in a flourishing condition. After a satisfactory report had been received on the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, Rev. W. Affleck presented that on the Conversion of the Jews, and the evening sitting was taken up entirely with its consideration. It referred to the attention that was being directed to the ancient people through the anti-Semitic wave on the continent, and stated that the United Presbyterian Church having no mission to the Jews of its own had agreed to pay £250 a year in aid of the Free Church's work in North Palestine. The chairman and secretary of the Foreign Mission Board of the United Presbyterian Church are to be associated with the committee. Rev. A. Moody, of Buda-Pesth, and other Jewish missionaries addressed the House.

Overtures were sent up from the Presbyteries of Aberdeen, Edinburgh, and Glasgow on the subject of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland missions to Roman Catholics. They set forth the exceedingly hopeful and encouraging state of that work at the present time. The testimony of Dr. Hamilton Magee, who had been in charge of this work for forty-six years, was that during all that time he had never known an opportunity so favourable for this work as that which at present was open, and that the ministers residing in the Roman Catholic parts of Ireland themselves testified that they had never felt the same sympathy for the direct preaching of the Gospel as there was at this moment. The purely evangelistic character of the work was dwelt upon and the overtures urged increased liberality toward the missionary work among Roman Catholics of the Irish Presbyterian Church. Revs. Principal Rainy, W. Ross, of Glasgow, and Dr. Alexander Whyte spoke in commendation of the work and the Assembly adopted a deliverance cordially sympathizing with the object of the overtures, and recommending to the congregations of the Church increased liberality towards the missionary work of the Irish Presbyterian Church.

The Assembly spent the greater part of a day discussing the reports of the Committee on Sunday Observance, of the Examination Board, of the Committee on Colleges, and of the Special Committee of Commission on secession cases in the Highlands. Principal Rainy and Dr. William Balfour were the only speakers on the report of the secession cases, the former moving and the latter seconding a resolution, commending a friendly attitude and line of action towards seceding congregations, and recording regret at the separation from the Church of those who had felt constrained to take that step. The report on Sunday observance deplored Sunday coaches in Edinburgh and trams in Glasgow, and reviewed municipal and official action in respect to several methods of Sunday desecration. In the course of the discussion a condemnation was pronounced on football, and on church goers who made use of Sunday cars and cabs, and Dr. Balfour expressed disapproval of the cheap Saturday to Monday fares on the railways as calculated to induce a great deal of Sunday desecration. Home Missions were discussed and occupied one evening.

The report on the Confession of Faith and relative overtures raised a prolonged discussion. The Declaratory Act was condemned in strong terms by some and the state of things produced in the Highlands by its enactment represented as most serious. Principal Rainy moved the adoption of the report, and he and others replied to objections. Rev. Dr. Balfour in amendment proposed a resolution to remit to a committee to consider how the Act should be dealt with so as to obviate all grounds of objection. Upon a division the motion was carried by a majority of 370.

After the debate on the Declaratory Act, the Assembly received the corresponding members of the English and United Presbyterian Churches. The evening sitting was devoted mainly to the consideration of the report of the Committee on Religion and Morals, in connection with which the House was addressed by the Rev. Dr. Parker, of London.

The next business that came up was the Sustentation Fund report. Dr. Walter Ross Taylor, in giving it in, said it might appear that there was a decrease of £6,354 4s 4d, but it had to be borne in mind that this sum practically corresponded with the amount of special contributions and donations in connection with the Jubilee. The ordinary revenue was only £288 behind that of 1892; it was the large falling-off in legacies that caused the serious reduction this year.

Professor Lindsay submitted the report on Foreign Missions. There were 1,115 adult converts admitted by missionaries in 1893, and 26,000 students taught in India, Africa, New Hebrides, and Syria missionary work additions rose last year from 975 to 1,108. The Professor mentioned that they had had the largest general income to the General Fund this year that they ever had, though for the first time for six years there had been a falling off in congregation revenue.

A HARMONY OF THE GOSPELS FOR HISTORICAL STUDY; AN ANALYTICAL SYNOPSIS OF THE FOUR GOSPELS IN THE VERSION OF 1881.

By Wm. Arnold Stevens, Professor of New Testament Interpretation in the Rochester Theological Seminary and Ernest DeWitt Burton, Professor of the New Testament Interpretation in the University of Chicago. Silver, Burdett & Company, Boston. 1894.

The justification for adding another to the many harmonies already existing is stated in detail, of which we may give these three. "It is planned throughout with reference to the historical study of the gospels; it aims to exhibit the differences between the several gospels as fully and as fairly as the resemblances; it is the product of accurate scientific scholarship, and of practical experience in teaching the gospels to classes of students." Full information is given as to the plan of the construction of this work and how to use it. It cannot but prove exceedingly useful to all who wish to study the gospels intelligently and thoroughly and we heartily commend its use to all of every class who desire to do so.

Books and Magazines.

THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD By the late Rev. W. Milligan, D.D., Professor of Divinity and Biblical Criticism in the University of Aberdeen. Fleming H. Revell Company. Price \$1.50.

The late Professor Milligan of Aberdeen, enjoyed for many years a world wide reputation of being a Biblical scholar, liberal, learned and profound, and at the same time, cautious accurate, and reverent. Some time before his death he contributed a series of expositions to the *Expositor* and the *Monthly Interpreter*. His intention was to gather the expositions into a separate volume, but his lamented death prevented that from being done. What was then intended has now been carried out. The result is an exposition of 1 Corinthians xv, which has no equal in the English language. An expositor is expected to have an accurate knowledge of the subject he expounds, sympathy with the writer whose mind he interprets, knowledge of the doctrines contained in the passage, and the ability to bring these to bear on modern life. This volume shows on every page that Prof. Milligan possessed the qualifications of an expositor in a rare degree. Every one who wants a calm, scholarly, and most suggestive exposition of the grandest chapter in the New Testament, should turn to this volume. To ministers, and indeed to Christian people of every calling, a perusal of this book will prove eminently, edifying and stimulating, uplifting and comforting. We believe this book will hold its place among commentaries deserving of being read for generations to come and that through it its author will long continue to speak.

A CANADIAN MANUAL OF THE PROCEDURE OF MEETINGS OF COUNCILS, SHAREHOLDERS AND DIRECTORS OF COMPANIES, SYNODS, CONVENTIONS, SOCIETIES AND PUBLIC BODIES GENERALLY, WITH AN INTRODUCTORY REVIEW OF THE RULES AND USAGES OF PARLIAMENT THAT GOVERN PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES IN CANADA. By J. G. Bourinot, C.M.G., LL.D. etc., Clerk of the House of Commons; author of Parliamentary Procedure in Canada, etc. etc. The Carswell Co. (Ltd.), Law Publishers, etc., Toronto, 1894.

The larger work of Mr. Bourinot referred to above, and published some years ago, at once took a first place as an authority on all the points coming within its scope. This is a smaller work called forth by inquiries constantly sent the writer since the appearance of his first book asking for information on the many points that arise in the conduct of public meetings of all kinds. To commend such a book as this by one who is *facile princeps* in this department is superfluous. It will doubtless become the authority for the guidance of those who preside at public meetings over the whole country. So far as our own church is concerned, it is satisfactory to know that the author, in a foot-note, says, "as a rule he has used the indispensable manual on 'Rules and Procedure' by Rev. Dr. Reid and W. B. McMurrich, Esq., Toronto 1889, to which reference must be made in all doubtful cases."

THE SUPERNATURAL IN CHRISTIANITY. By Principal Rainy, D.D., Professor J. Orr, D.D., and Professor Marcus Dods, D.D., with Prefatory Statement by Prof. Charteris, D.D. Fleming H. Revell Company. Price 70 cents.

Some time ago Prof. Pfeiderer, of Berlin, in delivering the Gifford Lectures in Edinburgh University, made a strong attack on the central citadel of Christianity. He is a follower of Baur and Strauss, and, like his masters, totally denies the supernatural in Christianity. To counteract such views these lectures were delivered, also in Edinburgh, and hence the present volume. We have here a scholarly and masterly statement of the main positions of Christianity. The weakness of Pfeiderer's position has been completely exposed. Dr. Rainy, who appears at his best, deals with the issues at stake with scientific simplicity and clearness, and in a style at once simple and sublime. Prof. Orr deals with the anti-supernaturalistic conception of Christianity, and convincingly shows how untenable is such a position. Prof. Marcus Dods takes up the "Trustworthiness of the Gospels" in his well-known simple and severely logical style. This little book of 111 pages is certainly a most important one. It is a timely production, and deals with a great theme in a scholarly convincing and reverent manner. Any one of these lectures is worth more than the price of the book. It should have a wide circulation and should be read by every minister of the church of Christ.

THE EVOLUTION OF SPIRITUAL MAN. By William M. Lisle. Silver, Burdett & Company, Boston. 1894.

This book is one of the many which has followed in the track of Professor Drummond's "Natural Law in the Spiritual World." "It is an attempt," says the author, "to show that the law of evolution is not only not opposed to evangelical Christianity, but a strong confirmation and enforcement of it." The success of such an undertaking must depend very largely upon the writer's idea or definition of evolution. He gives it as, "The principle of progressive continuity in the material and moral universe." "Christian evolution includes," he says, "not only natural process of development, but also direct supernatural combinations." In this sense he avers that, "nine-tenths of Christian Scientists now accept the doctrine of progressive continuity." After an introduction the writer works out his idea in six chapters of which the first, significantly to Christians at least, is entitled, "The Originating and Resident Life-force of Spiritual man is Jesus Christ." Every honest attempt to show the oneness of the hand that works in nature and in grace deserves encouragement. This work is thoughtful and suggestive, is written in a clear style and will well repay careful reading.