

of Scotland, to become Professor of Theology, as successor to Mr. Proudfoot, of London. He resigned his charge at Auchtermuchty in May, 1852, having laboured there with much acceptance for nearly twenty-five years. He came to Toronto in the month of June and entered on his work as Professor of Theology in the autumn of the same year, taking the entire charge of the Theological education of the candidates for the ministry in the United Presbyterian Church, and continuing to do so for the next ten years. For this work he was eminently fitted, and he performed it with great success and to the entire satisfaction of the Church. Many of his students are to-day filling important spheres in various parts of the Dominion and beyond it, and by all of them his memory is revered as that of an accomplished, honourable and painstaking teacher.

This congregation, under the name of the Second Congregation of the United Presbyterian Church, Toronto, was formed in 1853, and in November of that year he was inducted as its pastor. His position was far from being an easy or an enviable one. The congregation was small at the commencement; the circumstances of its members, as well as their numbers, made the erection of a place of worship a heavy enterprise. Times of severe and long continued depression came almost immediately after the completion of the building, and when a very large part of the expense had still to be met. The pastor's heart must often have all but failed him amid the struggle which followed, but he stuck to his post. He was happily strongly attached to the people, and they to him, and by their joint effort the most serious difficulties were overcome, so that when he resigned his charge, as he did in May, 1861, with the view of returning to Scotland, he left, not indeed a numerous but a united and zealous congregation, whose knowledge of divine truth and interest in the schemes of the Church has been greatly promoted by his preaching and example.

Having returned to Scotland he was inducted as pastor of the United Presbyterian congregation of Busby in April, 1863, and he continued in this pastorate until March, 1874, when, at seventy-three years of age, he withdrew from the active duties of the ministry. For the last six years he resided in Edinburgh, where he acted as an elder in the United Presbyterian congregation of Morningside; in that capacity, for a considerable portion of the time, teaching a Bible-class, visiting the sick, and taking the superintendence of one of the mission stations under the care of the congregation, preaching every Sabbath evening during the winter months.

It was his habit also, until a year ago, when his growing infirmity, or rather his failing voice, no longer admitted of such exertions, to visit every summer some vacant congregation and supply it for a month or six weeks. In this way his service of the Church which he so greatly loved, was prolonged almost to the end of his long life.

A little more than three months ago his health suddenly broke down. There was no pain, but such a degree of weakness as confined him almost entirely to his bed. It was evident to all that the silver cord was near being loosed. During the greater part of the time his mind was clear, and his interest in the work of the Church and of the congregation in which he was an elder continued unabated. Some shadows which had clouded his peace in the earlier stage of his illness passed away. At length, on the evening of the 30th November, he literally fell asleep. "He died, in a good old age, an old man and full of years."

The servant of Christ, a brief sketch of whose life I have placed before you, possessed a mind of great vigour, a wide range of knowledge, an accurate scholarship, and a rare power of clear, forceful, condensed expression. He was, as those of you who were his hearers well know, a singularly clear, sound, and instructive expositor of the Word of God. This was his most marked distinction. His preaching was almost wholly expository. The text needs no change to make suitable to his case, "Who spake unto you the Word of God." Men who loved the Word drew to him. Those, and there were many then, as there are many now, who wished, not instruction but excitement or entertainment, not food but condiments, passed him by. He could never have lent himself as a minister of Christ to gratify their tastes. He was profoundly attached to the system of doctrine usually designated Evangelical, and not few nor small were the anxieties of his later years, respecting what seemed departures from it in the land, if not in

the Church, of his fathers. He was a man of great modesty, having an estimate of his own ability and influence greatly below that which any who knew him had formed. He was, under an occasionally cold exterior, a warm, obliging, and most courteous friend. And above all, he was a devout, humble, and consistent Christian; "an example of the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity;" "in doctrine, shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech that could not be condemned." "Ye are witnesses and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably he behaved himself among you that believe; as ye know how he exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you as a father doth his children, that ye would walk worthy of God who hath called you unto His kingdom and glory." When such a life comes to an end at the ripe age of fourscore years, it is not for us, hardly indeed for any, to mourn. His work was done. He has entered on his reward. Be it yours to give to his person and life a sacred and loving place in your memory, and to be followers of him, so far as he followed Christ. "Remember him who had the rule over you, who spoke unto you the Word of God, whose faith follow, considering the end of his conversation."

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.—This court met on the 16th inst., Mr. McGuire Moderator. Present, twenty-two ministers and six elders. Mr. Bruce reported the action of the Assembly's Home Mission Committee on the applications made by the Presbytery. Communication was held with the Presbytery of Guelph regarding the opening of a preaching station, in connection with Killbride, at McRae's station, on the Credit Valley Railway. A call to Mr. T. Scouler, probationer, from Erskine Church, Hamilton, signed by fifty-two communicants and thirty-nine adherents, and promising a stipend of \$1,000, was sustained, and in view of Mr. Scouler's acceptance by letter, trials for ordination were appointed to be held in Central Church, on Tuesday, December 7th, at two p.m., and if these should be sustained, the ordination and induction to take place at seven p.m. of that day in Erskine Church. The next stated meeting, on the third Sabbath of January, was appointed to be held at Jarvis and the evening of that day is to be devoted to a conference on Sabbath school work. It was resolved to hold the annual conference on the State of Religion in Hamilton, on the 7th December, to be continued on the following day. Dr. James was appointed to open the conference. The Treasurer's accounts were audited. Mr. Chrystal gave in a carefully prepared and full report regarding statistics and finance, shewing that during the last year there has been considerable improvement throughout the bounds. A member of Presbytery was appointed to take charge specially of each of the several schemes, and returns made to them, viz.: Home Mission, Mr. Bruce; Foreign Missions, Mr. Lyle; French Evangelization, Mr. Chrystal; Colleges, Mr. Fletcher; Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, Dr. McDonald; Widows' and Orphans' Fund, Mr. Murray; Assembly, Synod, and Presbytery Funds, Mr. McGuire. Ministers were enjoined to exchange pulpits on some convenient Lord's day, when the circular already issued shall be read and the claims of the schemes of the Church shall be pressed upon the attention of the people, and sessions are required to report fulfilment of this injunction at the stated meeting of Presbytery in May. Arrears as reported were considered. The remit of the General Assembly on a Sustentation Fund was considered. Dr. McDonald gave notice that at next meeting he would move, "That as a first step towards ascertaining the feasibility of establishing a general sustentation fund, this Presbytery would recommend that the home mission work proper and the supplementing of weak congregations should have separate funds."—J. LAING, *Pres. Clerk*.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—The Rev. Dr. Reid has received the undermentioned sums for schemes of the Church: viz.: A member of St. Andrew's Church, Almonte, for Home Missions, \$4, also for Foreign Mission, \$2; a subscriber to THE PRESBYTERIAN at Welland, for Foreign Mission, China, \$4; a friend of Zenana Missions, for Foreign Missions, \$5; "Northern Advocate," County of Simcoe, for Home Missions, \$10, Foreign Mission, China, \$5, and French Evangelization, \$5; St. Andrew's Auxiliary of the Canadian Woman's Board of Missions, Foreign Mission, Formosa, \$18.80.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

THE INTERNATIONAL REVIEW for November and December. (New York: A. S. Barnes & Co.)—We have so often commended the "International" that we have nothing to add to what we have already said, except to wish it all success.

OUR readers will have noticed an advertisement in our columns for a week or two past in reference to the publication of a *fac simile* of the celebrated National Covenant of Scotland, which was signed with so much enthusiasm by all classes of Scotchmen in 1638; some going the length of opening a vein and using their own blood instead of ink. This *fac simile* of that important document with the signatures of all the prominent men who supported the movement, is very neatly got up, and we have no doubt will be purchased by very many as an interesting memorial of stirring times, as well as of a great movement which has done much for the establishment of civil and religious liberty the world over.

LEISURE HOUR, SUNDAY AT HOME, BOY'S OWN PAPER, GIRL'S OWN PAPER. (Toronto: Wm. Warwick & Son.)—The last monthly issues of these exceedingly readable and useful publications are quite equal to any which have gone before. It will be a happy day for Canada when such periodicals completely supplant the wretched trash—trash both intellectually and morally—which is so widely circulated through the length and breadth of the land. We are glad to understand that this is more and more the case, and that such publications as those of the Religious Tract Society are every year commanding a wider sale, and exercising a more and more potent and purifying influence. Our best wishes go with them.

HINTS FOR HOME READING. (New York: G. P. Putnam & Sons; Toronto: Hart & Rawlinson.)—This is really a very handy and a very useful volume. It is a series of chapters on books and their use, by various writers, including some very practical suggestions for the formation of a library, giving the names and the prices of the most desirable and important books which ought to be secured in making up a small library of 500 volumes, or one of a thousand or two. We can merely mention the titles of some of the chapters, but from these it will be seen how many useful hints may be had to guide individuals in the course of reading they ought to pursue, the books they ought to purchase, and the manner in which their reading may be turned to the best advantage. We have "What the People Read," "Why Young People Read Trash," "What to Read," "Plans of Reading," "The Choice of Books," "Hints for People who do not Read," etc. A great many people either don't read, or if they do, it is to very little purpose, simply because they don't know how to set about it. They have never received any advice on the subject, and have had no training, so that their efforts are often all but thrown away. Let them purchase such a book as this and they will find themselves greatly helped in the all important work of self improvement and of pleasant yet profitable recreation.

ON Sabbath, the 7th inst., the Rev. J. M. Aull preached his farewell address to his congregation in Innerkip. The occasion was one of deep feeling, and the parting words of the faithful pastor produced a marked effect, and will doubtless long be remembered by those present. The speaker himself was much affected. During the progress of his discourse it was evident that his emotion was controlled with great difficulty, and that the prospect of a speedy separation from his people was painful in the extreme. During his pastorate of ten years Mr. Aull has ever been faithful, fervent, and persuasive in winning souls—zealous in the cause of truth, fearless in his exposure and denunciation of error, and powerful in his exposition of the word of God. The Innerkip congregation regard his departure with feelings of universal regret, and cherish the hope that in Palmerston he may gain many warm friends, and that his labours there may be abundantly rewarded by the ingathering of many to be partakers of the glorious Gospel of the grace of God.

WE do not know of an easier method to secure a combination dinner and breakfast set than by getting up a club of forty-five names, at \$1.50 each, for THE PRESBYTERIAN. This set consists of eighty pieces; each piece is neatly painted. This club can readily be got up in almost any country congregation.