

Ecclesiastical News.

SCOTLAND: We mourn to-day the departure of Dr. Horatius Bonar. For fifty years he has been before the Church as a prominent figure: First, as one of that noble band of young men, of whom it may truly be said that they were really instrumental in reviving Evangelical sentiment in its living intensity in the Church of Scotland; and who reckoned among their members such names as those of Robert Murray McCheyne, William Burns, of Islay; Dr. Robert McDonald of North Leith; Moody Stewart, Robt. Burns, Andrew Bonar, the late Professor Smeaton, &c. Then as a hymn writer, there are few names so loved, nor any hymns more helpful than those of Dr. Bonar. What collection could omit without irreparable detriment such exquisite productions as, "I lay my sins on Jesus," "I heard the voice of Jesus say," "Thy way not mine, O Lord," "Calm me, my God, and keep me calm." "Here, O my God, I see thee face to face," &c., &c. On April 15th, last year, Dr. Bonar attained to his ministerial jubilee, when a purse of \$5,000 was presented to him, in "grateful recognition of the eminent services rendered by him to the Church, by his hymns, his writings, and his faithful ministry." This was his last appearance in public. A few years ago, he had lost his wife, and a little before occurred the death of his son-in-law, the Rev. G. T. Dodds, of the McAll Mission. Now the sweet singer writes in the songs above; and we below shall rejoice in the refrains he has left us as an heritage here. At the induction of the Rev. Marcus Dodds, into the professional chair in Edinburgh, Dr. Whyte, of St. George's, had been deputed to deliver the address: in which he was particularly happy. Speaking of the dangers which beset Professor Dodds, he thus referred to those from *outside*: saying that "Men who loved neither the Church, nor the truth she had been raised up to teach, were at present crowding round him, and making him their champion and their boast. Yes, their new professor was broad (as the misleading and ingenious word was), but his breadth was not theirs, any more than his depth. Because his studies and his style led him to say some things that sounded in their ears, not unlike their own unhallowed language about Holy Scripture, they had held him up as their ally and champion; a passing misunderstanding also with some of his brethren had for the moment made Dr. Dodds an immensely popular man in quarters where popularity and patronage must be a sufficient chastisement and a real humiliation. But as time went on, the authority of his judgment, and the attractiveness of his character might win over many such men to the knowledge and the love of God." . . . In Glasgow University, Mr. A. C. Bradley, M.A., Liverpool, has been appointed to the chair of English literature,

and Mr. Murray, Oxondan, to the Greek chair. Dr. Henry Cowan, of New Greyfriars, Edinburgh, has been appointed to the chair of Church History in the University of Aberdeen. A bust of Dr. Chalmers has been placed in the Wallace Monument by Mrs. Mackenzie, a daughter of the great Divine. The unveiling was performed by the Moderators of the two assemblies, Dr. Gloag and Dr. Laird, an ex-moderator of the U. P. Church, being also present. Symbol of the future of the Presbyterian of Scotland, let us hope. D.

IRELAND.—By the kindness of a friend whose fidelity has stood the test of more than three decades of years, the minutes of the late meeting of Assembly lie before us. The whole proceedings of the supreme Court, as well as the reports that were presented, are pervaded with a spirit of hopefulness, and this of itself goes very far to secure success. In spite of the unrest that prevails, according to the statements of the press, never was the work of the Irish Presbyterian Church more vigorous and successful. Take the opening statements of the Report on Statistics as a specimen of the whole. It is as follows:—"The past year has been one of more than ordinary prosperity. With one or two trifling exceptions, every phase of congregational life touched by your query sheet exhibits a gratifying and, in some cases, a marked advance on previous returns. The Church's heart will throb with gratitude to her gracious King and Head for the encouraging tokens of progress with which He has been pleased to answer her prayers and bless her labours. Seeing that their efforts have not been in vain, the growing bands of devoted workers that are springing up in our several congregations will find themselves fortified to prosecute afresh the task to which they have been called. The Church as a whole has taken a step, and a bold step, forward." Further down, we are told that:—"The total income for the year reaches the very creditable sum of £214,683, a splendid advance of £9,576." The minutes shew that the whole proceedings of the Assembly were of a peaceful character, quite in keeping with what a church court should do. The death roll of the last year in the ministry was but ten, as compared with sixteen of the previous year. The length of ministry varied all the way from fifty-four years down to two. Next year will complete half a century since the first Assembly met, when the union of the Synod of Ulster and the Secession Synod was consummated. A large committee was appointed to arrange for a suitable jubilee celebration. In order to have the meeting at the same time of the year, it will be held a month later than for many years past—in July instead of June. Also May Street Church, which may almost be called an Assembly hall now, is to be abandoned for the year, and Rosemary street, where the Union was con-