

vated. To keep them in gross darkness was considered one of the most effective methods of retaining them in subjection. But it is the glory of these latter days to disseminate truth, to send out the light of knowledge to the ends of the earth. No sooner is a new fact brought to light than the announcement of it is flashed across continents and seas, and it becomes the common property of the civilized world. The printing press and the telegraph are every day instructing the listening nations as to what developments of truth are being made by the interpreters of nature. The societies for the advancement of Science meet and give opportunity to the Savants of the day to make known the results of research in the different departments, and to elicit by discussion and comparison of results, what progress has actually been made in adding to the sum of human enlightenment. Every such meeting is a recognition of the duty of carrying out the Divine commission, and it gives a powerful impetus to the spirit of inquiry. It quickens the desire for a fuller knowledge of the mysteries which are still hid from the wise and prudent. Every year the light is growing brighter and the perfect day will soon appear. But it is not only the material and intellectual progress of the race that is being advanced by the marvellous unfoldings of science, the power of alleviating human suffering is being enlarged, and new appliances are being put into the hands of the Church for the evangelization of the nations. Those men who pursue their investigations, not for the hope of reward, or of winning fame, but for the pleasure of discovering the unknown and tracing out the unity of thought that pervades the universe, are carrying on a noble ministry for the welfare of mankind. It is owing to the results of their unselfish labors that the wealth of the world is increasing with such amazing rapidity, for they have brought new forces into play which eclipse the fabled philosopher's stone, and convert, not only the baser metals, but even the vilest refuse of our streets and factories, into gold. As the general wealth is attaining larger dimensions, increased contributions are being made to educational and benevolent institutions, to refuges and homes for the blind and infirm and incurable, and insane, and also to the Church for carrying on its missions among the idolatrous tribes of the earth, and diffusing the light and peace and hope of the Gospel among them that are in darkness and the shadow of death. The missionaries of Science are thus proving themselves powerful allies of the missionaries of the Cross, albeit that some of them assume a hostile attitude to Christianity and its blessed work. We hear a great deal of the oppositions of science to the Christian religion, and pious souls tremble with alarm for the safety of the Ark of God, but I have no fear from that source, because these oppositions will "have their day and cease to be;" they can be reputed, by the logic of facts as well as by fair and accurate reasoning. The Christian religion is in infinitely greater peril, it suffers vastly greater harm from the inconsistent worldly lives of those who claim that they regard it as of Divine origin, and as the system of truth which alone can lead men up to the plane of perfection. It is indifference and formalism, and lukewarmness, and a want of decision to be wholly consecrated to God, that threaten the greatest danger to religion at the present moment. The infidelity of Christians to moral obligation and righteous principle, their selfishness, their sordid greed of gain, their hatred of one another, is doing a hundred fold more injury to the cause of pure religion and undefiled than all the infidelity of Science. The scandal brought upon the Church of Christ by those who occupy high positions in it, the abuse of sacred trust, and the robbery of widows and orphans by men who had the confidence of the church, and were commissioned as its representatives, are incalculably more damaging to the interests of religion than all the assaults

of its enemies who are found in the ranks of science. The sorest wounds from which Christianity is suffering to-day have been inflicted in the house of its friends. The greatest hindrance to the advancement of Christianity and its conquest of the nations, is put in the way by the hands of those who at the same time pray that it may soon transform the moral wastes of the earth, and scatter its blessings from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same.

It is not so much, then, by refuting thoroughly the unsound theories of science, that we can hope to do most for the extension of the power and influence of Christianity, and the hastening on of the day of millennial glory when the light of the blessed gospel will shine into every heart and irradiate every home, as by doing justly and loving mercy and walking humbly before God, exemplifying the beauty and the grace and loveliness of Christian truth unto a world that is craving after something higher and more satisfying and enduring than "all that riches, all that wealth ever gave," or all that mere human wisdom and learning can bestow. The world by wisdom knew not God in the palmiest days of Grecian culture, neither can it know him through the teaching of the apostles of sweetness and light in our time, and the knowledge of Him and of Jesus Christ whom He has sent, is alone capable of filling us with the peace that passeth all understanding. This knowledge gives everlasting life; it sheds abroad within our souls such a light as streams not forth from shining suns.—for God is Light, and to know Him is to be filled with His radiance. All the lines of thought along with the students of Science are working lead up to Him who is the Light and the Life of men. The wise men of the East, the high-priests of science of that far-off age, were directed, by their knowledge of God's glory in the heavens, to the feet of Christ to whom they offered their profoundest homage. And all the discoveries which are being made in the great kingdom of nature conduct those who regard them with a devout spirit, and have taken a true measure of their own finiteness, and comprehended their need of that Light which can illuminate their dark moral nature, unto Him whose star is seen, no longer in the East, but in mid-heaven. The Sun of Righteousness is becoming more and more, as the years roll on, the great centre towards which the profoundest intellects feel themselves irresistibly gravitating. The light of Science is not enough for them, they crave after the light of the glorious Gospel of the blessed God.

While, then, we wish God-speed to all those who are devoting themselves with such noble aspirations to the task of revealing the deep thoughts of God as written in the great volume of nature, and express our gratitude that their researches are giving us grander conceptions of the greatness and power and wisdom of God, and confirming the truth of the Scripture record, and showing us more and more the need of a Saviour from sin, let us pray also that the light of the gospel of Christ which bringeth salvation, may be diffused more widely and that Science and Religion may co-operate with less of discord to hasten on that time when the shadows that oppress human life shall disappear, and the words which dispelled the chaos and darkness that brooded upon the earth shall find their complete fulfilment, and the light which lighteneth every man that cometh into the world shall bring in an everlasting day.

REV. WILLIAM S. SMITH, who finished his theological course here last year, was inducted, Tuesday the 11th, into the pastoral charge of Camden and Tamworth. The Rev. Dr. Williamson, M.A., addressed the minister on that occasion.