

THE BIBLE AND CRITICISM.

Rev. Dr. Armstrong in a recent sermon made reference to the much talked of subject of the Higher Criticism. Among other things he said that people were apt to think of criticism as blame or fault finding while it really meant examination. Higher criticism was considered by many as a sort of arrogance while it was rather an inquiry based on the Bible as a whole and books of the Bible as a whole instead of word by word. The attitude of criticism of the Bible was the fundamental position taken by the Protestant religion. Protestants claimed the right to come to the Bible in the spirit of inquiry. It was wrong to come to the Bible with a theory. "That is the true theory of the Bible that is sustained by the book itself."

"Who should determine these questions of the Bible? Should we rest on the verdict of the church? That is the Roman Catholic idea. Should we rest on the verdict of scholars of 300 years ago? Modern scholars are just as good and better than those of three centuries ago. Are we to take the judgment decided by the vote of the unlearned members of the church? While that is wise with regard to many questions it is not safe in questions such as these. We should not be persuaded by rhetorical preachers and evangelists only. The voice of the demagog is always dangerous whether it is in favor or against higher criticism. The voice of the thoughtful, thorough and devout scholars is the final verdict, which must stand."

With regard to the injurious results of this present movement he said that the faith of some had been much unsettled. Faith based on ignorance and superstition must go when the light comes. Faith on mere theory goes with the theory. Real faith must be founded on truth. In an age of credulity it is easy to believe. In an age of inquiry many minds are held in suspense. The movement has occasioned much bad party spirit. One calls another an infidel and the other responds that the first is an ignoramus. It has led to the promulgation of wild, unwarranted and mischievous theories.

Some of the good results have been that it has awakened the church up to inquiry which is better than to death. It makes the church take an intellectual attitude on the Bible. It delivers us from many of the difficulties and the perplexities of interpretation. It makes the Bible more real to us and closer up to every day life. It opens up an era of Biblical gospel preaching.

"Let the scholar settle these questions of scholars. We have the Book. God speaks to us through it. Read it intelligently. Read it honestly. The truth manifests itself in every man's conscience. It is a good rule to lay it up in our hearts and practice it in our lives, and then it will approve itself."

Rev. Jas. Cormack, M.A., of Ottawa, preached the sermon at the Ninetieth Anniversary of the I.O.O.F., for the local lodge at Avonmore last Sunday afternoon. The attendance of members and their friends filled the church, and they listened to an inspiring gospel message.

The congregation of Knox church, Lancaster, has lost a valuable member in the person of Mr. J. S. McDonald, assistant post master, who has left for Yorkton, Sask. Always an active worker in church and Sunday school he will be greatly missed. Before leaving he was presented on behalf of fellow workers in the Sunday school with a Bible and handsome suit case; and is followed to his western home with the good wishes of a large circle of friends.

MONTREAL COLLEGE PRIZE LIST.

Medals, scholarships and prizes were awarded to the students at the Presbyterian College, at the close of the present session, as follows:—

Gold medal and McCorkill travelling fellowship, \$400, H. W. Cliff, B.A.
Silver medal and Hugh Mackay scholarship, \$50, W. MacMillan, B.A.

Crescent Street scholarship, \$50, E. H. Gray, B.A.

Mrs. Morrice scholarship, \$50, I. A. Montgomery, B.A.

David Morrice scholarship, \$100, W. A. Hunter, B.A.

W. Brown scholarship, \$50, J. S. Duncan.

George Sheriff Morrice scholarship, \$50, T. P. Drum.

Peter Redpath scholarship, \$70, W. Mackintosh.

William Ross scholarship, \$40, R. E. David.

Hamilton (McNab Street Church) scholarship, \$40, J. Boucher.

Emily H. Frost scholarship, \$35, A. Gouin.

McCorkill scholarship, \$50, E. A. Corbett.

McCorkill scholarship, \$50, J. A. MacKenzie.

Lord Mount Stephen scholarship, \$50, J. T. McNeill.

Dr. Kelley scholarship, \$50, A. B. MacDonald.

John Stirling scholarship, \$50, J. T. Gordon.

First Church, Brockville, scholarship, \$50, G. H. Fletcher.

Erskine Church, Montreal, scholarship, \$50, R. A. Davidson.

St. Paul's Church, Montreal, scholarship, \$50, J. L. McInnis.

Prizes.

Sunday-school pedagogy, \$15, W. Macintosh.

Elocution (Principal Kneeland prize), \$25, C. W. Shelley.

Elocution (John A. Macmaster prize), \$15 in books, T. P. Drum.

Elocution (John A. Macmaster prize), \$10 in books, S. G. Brown.

Ecclesiastical architecture (Judge Hutchinson prize), \$10 in books, W. Macmillan.

Public speaking, \$10 in books, E. H. Gray, B.A.

English reading, \$10 in books, Joseph Corrier.

French reading, \$10 in books, J. Pelletier.

English essay, \$10 in books, E. H. Gray, B.A.

French essay, \$10 in books, J. Boucher.

At the first annual meeting of the Samia Presbyterian Women's Home Missionary Society, the following officers were elected for the coming year:—President, Mrs. Hugh Simpson, Petrolcan; 1st vice-president, Mrs. Wm. Fee, Wyoming; 2nd. vice-president, Mrs. Graham, Parkhill; 3rd. vice-president, Mrs. Dawson, Parkhill; 4th vice-president, Miss Lee, Samia; treasurer, Miss Rennie, Samia; secretary, Mrs. J. Hunter, Wyoming; pioneer secretary, Mrs. Mitchell, Watford; supply secretary, Mrs. McLean, Samia. The meeting was largely attended by delegates throughout the Presbytery. Rev. George Arther, who has charge of one of the Home Mission hospitals at Vegreville, Alberta, addressed the evening meeting and emphasized the importance of this branch of mission work. The society will meet next year at Parkhill.

It is reported that the Shawville congregation will consolidate with two neighboring charges. Rev. Dr. Ramsay visited the locality recently as representative of the Presbytery, and will report, when action by the Presbytery will follow. It is probable that Shawville, Stark's Corners and Bristol Corners will be united.

EASTERN ONTARIO.

Rev. W. A. Morrison, of Dalhousie Mills, accepted the call to South Mountain, and Rev. McCallum, of Glen Saffield, will be interim moderator of session.

Rev. N. H. McGillivray, M.A., of Cornwall, has been elected moderator of Glengary Presbytery, in succession to Rev. Mr. Morrison, who is leaving the bounds.

The resignation of Rev. Dr. MacLean, of Avonmore, has been accepted by Glengary Presbytery, to take effect on 1st inst. Rev. W. D. Bell, of Finch, was appointed interim moderator, and will declare the pulpit vacant on the 9th inst.

Rev. Dr. Harkness has entered his eighth year as pastor of Knox church, Cornwall, when he made the following reference. "Many were the blessings received during the past seven years and for a congregation of its size some striking changes had taken place. To the membership 203 had been added making a present communion roll of 328. Of the 200 removals, 56 had been by death. An appeal to every man, woman and child in the congregation was made to accept the Scripture injunction, "Forget the things that are behind," and rise to new activities for God and mankind."

As was most fitting great importance was laid on the safeguarding of the home by the committee on church life and work in its report to the Montreal and Ottawa synod at Pembroke. This was presented by Rev. Mr. McKay. The meeting adopted a recommendation that the general assembly prepare and publish a book of prayer for family worship. Disapproval was expressed at the prominence given to betting and wagers in the sporting columns of many daily papers, in view of the prevalence of the gambling habit. The forward movement in systematic giving, as promoted by the Laxmen's Missionary Movement, was heartily endorsed, and a recommendation was approved which called for a larger representation of elders on the general assembly's committee on church life and work.

On Thursday evening, April 15th, Rev. J. H. Edmison was inducted into the charge of Knox church, Kincardine, left vacant by the retirement after thirty years of service, of Rev. Dr. Murray. The members of the Presbytery of Maitland who took part in the impressive service were: Rev. Messrs. H. T. Ferguson, Belgrave; B. M. Smith, Kinross; T. L. McKerrall, Lucknow; David Perrie, Wingham; and A. C. Wishart, Brussels. A reception was afterwards held in the church parlors, when the members of the congregation were introduced to their new minister.

The death is announced of Rev. Marcus Dods, D.D., of Edinburgh, who recently resigned as one of the professors in the United Free College in that city. Deceased was born in Belford, Northumberland, in 1834, and was educated at the Edinburgh Academy and University. He was licensed as minister of the Free Church of Scotland in 1856, and ordained at Renfrew Free Church, Glasgow, in 1864. He had been professor of New Testament theology, Edinburgh, since 1889, and principal of the institution from 1907. Deceased was an author of note. Among his publications were the following: "The Prayer That Teaches to Pray," 1863; "The Epistles to the Seven Churches," 1865; "Israel's Iron Age," 1874; "Mohammed, Buddha, and Christ," 1877; "Handbook on Hagai, Zechariah and Malachi," 1879; "Isaac, Jacob and Joseph," 1880; "Handbook on Genesis," 1882; "Parables of Our Lord," 1883, 1885; "Why Be Religious," 1896; "How to Become Like Christ," 1897; "The Greek Gospel According to St. John, in the Expositor's Greek Testament," 1897; "The Bible, its Origin and Nature," 1904, and numerous articles in Encyclopedia Britannica, Expositor, etc.