

cation. Only two ministers in the Maritime Synod, older than Mr. Christie, survive him,—Rev. Hugh Macleod, D.D., of Sydney, and Rev. William McCulloch, D.D., Truro. His removal causes a notable blank in the goodly roll of the Fathers who assisted in consummating the union in Nova Scotia in 1860. Mr. Christie was an early advocate of the larger union of 1875, and he rejoiced to attend the General Assembly, and to note the rapid advances of the Church in all her enterprises, especially in Foreign Missions, in which he was profoundly interested. Faith, hope and love combined to lend a peculiar charm to his closing years.

Mr. JAMES T. ELDER, an elder in the congregation at Rounthwaite, Manitoba, died on the 7th of July, aged 55. He was ordained in 1883 at the first election of elders for this new field. For these seven years his life and conduct has shown a noble example. His former home was at Vaughan, Ont. As an office-bearer his counsel was full of wisdom and always on the side of forbearance, purity and truth.

Mr. JOHN R. ROSS, senior elder in the congregation at Bervie, Ont., died there on the 23rd of June, aged 83. Mr. Ross was born in the Parish of Loggie, Rosshire. He came to Canada in 1832, and settled in the Township of Zorra, Ont., where he did his share of laborious pioneer work and took a prominent part in everything connected with the Church. He was superintendent of the Sabbath-school for a number of years, and his memory will long be cherished by those with whom he associated as that of a manly and earnest Christian.

Mr. JAMES CAMPBELL, an elder in Charles Street Congregation, Toronto, died on the 13th of July in the 80th year of his age. Mr. Campbell was a native of Edinburgh, and was for some time connected with the well-known publishing house of Nelson & Sons. Some thirty years ago he established a publishing house in Toronto, which did a very extensive business. He was a man of scholarly attainments and cultivated tastes, and a most exemplary office-bearer in the Church. He has left a widow and six children; one of his sons is Rev. Professor Campbell of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, the convener of the Record committee.

PRESBYTERIANISM IN CANADA.

The following facts regarding Presbyterianism appear in the Year-Book of Canada for 1889, published by the Department of Agriculture:—Total Roman Catholics, 1,799,235; Church of England, 590,537; Presbyterians, 697,460; Methodists, 758,608; Baptists, 291,131. There is a number of smaller

denominations, the most considerable of which are Congregationalists and Reformed Episcopalians. In the Criminal statistics the religious conviction is as follows:—Roman Catholics, 1,807; Church of England, 637; Methodists, 377; Presbyterians, 291; Baptists, 110. In 1888, of criminals convicted of indictable offences, 48 per cent were Roman Catholics; 17 per cent Church of England; 10 per cent Methodist; and 7 per cent Presbyterian. It is to be noted then that at least *seven* of every hundred convicted criminals in the Dominion are nominally Presbyterians. Usually the conviction is only nominal, but the lesson to us is to strive that even our nominal adherents may be brought under the beneficent restraints of the Gospel. A religion cannot be of great worth for the future if it fail to secure a virtuous and godly life in the present world.

MISSIONARY ITEMS.

It is generally conceded that Presbyterianism in heathen lands have made the largest practical advance towards union of their missionary forces. In Japan the union has been complete, and the various divisions of Presbyterians have there melted into one. In India, the proposition to unite the various representatives of the Presbyterian bodies has been received with much favor, and no dissenting voice has been heard, except from the United Presbyterians of America. In China the question of union is under consideration. In Brazil, all the Presbyterians engaged in the work of evangelization are under the control of one Synod.

Dr. GEORGE P. HAYS, after a visit to Beirut, says very emphatically, that the Syrian Mission, of our Church, as its operations are seen in Beirut and in other parts of Syria, is a model mission. He does not wonder that the Congregationalists parted with it in real sorrow at the time of the union of the Presbyterian churches in 1870. The basis of the Beirut Mission has been wisely laid. A mission church, a printing establishment, a book publishing house, a girls' school, a college affiliated with the mission, with a fine medical department—all under the guidance of men and women of the highest stamp, constitute an array of forces which must work great and blessed results in coming years. Dr. Hays describes the small room in one of the buildings in which the Holy Scriptures were translated into the Arabic language. It is a historic room, worthy, as Dr. Hays says, to be placed alongside of the Jerusalem chamber in Westminster Abbey. In it the Word of God was transferred to a language spoken and read by millions of dwellers in Asia and Africa.