

try—the Rev. Dr. W. J. Hunter, of the Niagara Conference, and the Rev. H. D. Hunter, pastor of the Congregational Church of London. He was born in Phillipsburg, Quebec, in 1842, and was in early life converted to God. Such a strong and earnest nature could not long remain inactive in the great moral conflict waging in the world. He soon buckled on his armour for a lifelong conflict for truth and righteousness against sin and wrong. He early came to the front as a Methodist preacher. His ministerial life, after his probation, was chiefly spent in the service of some of the strongest churches of Montreal, Toronto, and Hamilton. Everywhere he left a record of usefulness, of upbuilding the Church of God, that made his return to a former charge a much desired event.

Dr. Hunter wielded a pen of unusual vigour and vivacity. Many persons still remember his graphic and sprightly letters recounting the proceedings of the Ecumenical Conference in London. His contributions to this MAGAZINE were also read with much pleasure and profit.

Brother Hunter's piety was not of the austere sort that could not perceive the humorous aspect of things; he was one of the most genial of companions, and those who have travelled with him, or have been otherwise intimately associated with him, recount the great pleasure that his Christian courtesy and urbanity conferred. He thus made religion attractive to those who would be repelled by austerity of manner.

His loss will be sorely felt. We looked to him as one who should long continue to fill one of the foremost places in the Church, and to bear a leading part in its guidance—to be a Nestor in its councils, as he had been an Achilles in its conflicts. But so it seemed not good to the All-wise and All-kind Head of the Church. What an admonition to us who are left to work while it is called to-day, for the night cometh when no man can work.

#### SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

Our country has an enviable reputation for its observance of the Sabbath. This, we think, is more nearly allied to national prosperity than some would admit. There are those who would like to relax the bonds of Sabbath observance. It is well to guard against the beginnings of such invasion of the rights of the working-man; for it is to his interest more than to that of any other man that the sanctity of the Sabbath be maintained. We are glad, therefore, that Senator Macdonald introduced his resolution calling attention to the many petitions in favour of the better observance of the Lord's day. The laws of the different Provinces are on this subject widely diverse. He urged the harmonization of these laws, with the suppression of certain flagrant violations of the sanctity of the holy day. He deprecated the running of Sunday trains, and steamboats, and the practice of Sunday work in connection with the post-office department.

"Here clearly," he said, "there is Dominion jurisdiction. It is in the power of the Postmaster-General to order the closing of every post office in the Dominion on the Lord's day. Impossible says one; what shall we do if we do not get our letters? Do just what other people do. Do without them, and be all the better for the experiment. But the same statement is repeated, and the only one apparently which objectors can use, 'Impossible!' Well, all I can say is that it is possible in the great metropolis of the world. It is possible in London with its five millions of people; not a post office cart to be seen on the streets; not a postman to be seen on his rounds; not a letter delivered in any part of that vast metropolis. Here, where every shade of religious belief is found; there, where the busiest men in the world are found; there, where men with the most pressing business are found; but for letters they must