

lenient treatment. The nearer the law gets to recognizing and emphasizing this, the sooner will those degenerates of mankind and womankind,

who exist by decoying the innocent and unwary into earthly hells, and by preying on ignorance and sin, become historic facts of "the bad old days."

The 1912 Assembly at Edmonton

BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER

D. A. Chalmers

To one who has not only been accustomed to Assemblies in the centre of Presbyterianism, the capital city of Scotland—where still meet two General Assemblies, not unlikely by and by to be converted into one—but who once did secretarial work for a real live Earl while he was Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and representing Queen Victoria at Holyrood Palace during the sitting of that Assembly, the first thing that came under notice about the Assembly of the Presbyterian Church at Edmonton was the absence of all pomp and ceremony. Here Religion, unattached to the State, and unconnected with a dominant Ritualism, is seen in its native grandeur; for, if there is no panoply of State and no vain display of the trappings of life, there is not lacking the manifestation of the Great Realities as revealed in the lives and characters of men. Here one finds, as in Edinburgh, the true significance and the lasting impression in the large body of men, ministers and laymen, big of brain and heart, who gather for careful conference, and, as far as possible in the time and circumstances, business direction of the organized Christian forces known as the Presbyterian Church.

Some unavoidable measure of routine business, much discussion in

which occasional evidence is given that the spirit of combativeness common to Young Men's Debating Societies, dies hard even in the D.D.'s of three score and ten, or thereby, may, but should not, be allowed to prevent anyone recognising that such a gathering is unique in that it has in its front rank men from all "walks of life." Venerable doctors of divinity, whose overshadowing characteristic is a glowing, Christ-like spirituality, are there; medical men, judges, lawyers, men from all departments of the business world mingle in common concave. Conspicuous in the inner or upper circle one finds "Ralph Connor,"—Rev. Charles W. Gordon, D.D., of Winnipeg—who by his earnest, active part in various work of the Assembly reminds us that however great he may be held to be as a writer of books and an enthralling story-teller, his highest ideal and most earnest service are inseparably linked with the Christian ministry and the proclamation of the Great Evangel.

For this great Conference, as in other spheres of work, men may do much that formalities and delays may seem to check, if not for the time being to nullify; but here also, as elsewhere, we may be confident that no earnest effort is ever vain; sooner or later it will contribute to the sum of things, and be an influence directly or