

evade the demands made upon his services. He had as his colleagues marked men, of high standing and influence. Dr. Caven came as near to being a leader of the church as sturdy Presbyterianism, which regards all the true pastors as having the same authority and equal power one with another, would reasonably submit to; Dr. Gregg, scholarly and energetic, with a strong following whose implicit confidence he commanded; and Dr. Proudfoot, the unexcelled homilete, who impressed his mind deeply on the ministers of his church by his learning, and on the people by his earnest sincerity. These men were heard in the courts of their church, and of them Professor Maclaren was not the least influential, or indefatigable, in service. From the days of the sainted McCheyne and the Bonars, the missionary spirit pervaded the Presbyterian Church, and nowhere more thoroughly than in Canada. Professor Maclaren occupied the important position of convener of the Foreign Mission Committee of his church for sixteen years, a position in which his business aptitude as well as his deep sympathy, found useful scope, and in the exercise of which great results were attained. It was during his occupancy of this office that missionary operations were extended to far Formosa, by the heroic Mackay, to India by a devoted band of men and women, while the outlying portions of the Canadian field, on the wild shores of the northern Pacific, were not overlooked. His attitude towards the greater movements in the church has always been one of respectful caution, and his sound judgment and prudence have had much quiet influence with men who may be regarded as pillars of the ecclesiastical edifice, he, himself, has had no small share in upbuilding. He has been a controversialist of ability, and when he considers himself called upon to place his views, either as a propounder or critic, before the public, his pamphlets never fail to find readers. His style, if not so keen as his aged colleague Dr. Gregg's was wont to be, or as tersely direct as that of Dr. Caven, is trenchant and lucid to a degree, and whether in defence of the doctrines of his church, or in attacking what he considers to be mistaken views, he is always a formidable if perfectly courteous opponent.

In the great movement which has been in progress for the last few years, making for church union in Canada, he does not see eye to eye with some of his respected brethren, on some of the points involved, in the