

Personals.

THE Senate has appointed Mr. J. C. Smith, B.A., Tutor in Latin, and Mr. R. C. Tibb, Librarian, in the College.

MR. J. A. McDONALD, '81, has been called to Horning's Mills. His ordination and induction takes place on the 26th inst.

REV. J. THOMPSON intends spending the summer on the Continent. We wish for him a pleasant trip.

THE examinations being over the grads were overheard saying, "The next thing is the license, boys." This is rather indefinite.

MR. R. Y. THOMPSON, B.A., '81, has been appointed assistant examiner in Manitoba College. In the event of his not being able to act, Rev. J. Farquharson, B.A., '81, fills the vacancy.

Literary Notices.

Baptism Improved; or Parents and Baptized Children solemnly reminded of their Obligations. By Rev. W. A. McKay, B.A., Woodstock, Ont. Toronto: James Campbell & Son, 1882.

THIS is a more recent publication of Mr. McKay's, and shows less care in its preparation than the former. Ministers, parents and children are earnestly reminded of their obligations to God and to one another. The reader feels in doubt, however, as to the real aim of the author in writing the pamphlet. If his object is to exalt the sacrament of baptism, why does he not do it by a direct discussion of its purpose and relations? But if, as is probable, it is to arouse these persons, why does he tie his right hand by limiting the ground of his appeal to baptism and baptismal vows? This is indeed not adhered to throughout, and the best and strongest parts of the pamphlet are those where baptism is left out altogether.

The dedication of their children in baptism certainly furnishes *one* strong

ground of appeal to parents, and Mr. McKay has used it effectively. But when he comes to use the fact of their baptism in addressing the children themselves it is correspondingly weak. His own illustration of a soldier's uniform, will serve to show this; for, who would waste time appealing to an intelligent soldier to be true to his uniform, when he could urge him to fight for queen and country, for relatives and friends, for his possessions and rights, for life itself?

Here, as in his earlier work, Mr. McKay seeks to exalt baptism. As a sacrament it is certainly co-ordinate with the Lord's Supper, and the regenerating work of the Spirit which it symbolizes is essential and vital. But symbolizing this mystical act, it can never appeal to us as does the sacrament which recalls the love of the dying Saviour. Baptism is not singled out for special neglect, but unconsciously we use to influence others that which has most power over ourselves. Moreover all churches which do not make baptism a saving ordinance, agree in giving more promin-