

The Declaratory Act. The Free Church Declaratory Act has been adopted by the Synod of Otago by a majority of 90 to 14, the minority consisting of seven ministers and seven elders.

Canadian Foreign Missions. A most useful pamphlet on the Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, in Central India has just been issued. It has been written by Rev. Prof. MacLaren, D.D., of Knox College, and contains information of great interest about the great work carried on in the important field with which it deals. A perusal cannot fail to deepen the interest of the reader in the grand work which is being accomplished and the pamphlet should find its way to every household connected with the church. The secretary to the Foreign Mission Board, hopes to be able to disseminate as effectively by a similar method, information respecting Honan, Formosa, and the North West Indians. The appearance of these pamphlets will be looked forward to as the spirit of missions has been aroused and definite information such as these publications contain help to focus and guide individual effort. The pamphlet can be procured from Rev. R. P. MacKay, Foreign Mission Secretary, for five cents which covers cost of printing and postage.

An Eloquent Sermon. It is on record that Daniel Webster said that the most eloquent sermon he ever heard was from an aged minister, who began his discourse with the very telling words, "A man can only die once." Of course the sermon was an "eloquent" one for three reasons. Firstly, the statement was an aphorism. Secondly, the aged minister was clearly within sight of the goal of death himself. Thirdly, the subject of death was always an interesting one to the great American orator, of whom it is recorded that he studied the circumstances of his own death and watched its approach with intense interest. These three conditions combined would serve to make any sermon "eloquent," for they are the favourable conditions of the sower, the seed, and the ground which make preaching effective. This is clearly demonstrated in "the parable of the four kinds of ground," as spoken by our Lord; and it is notable that while most people find fault with the pulpit, our Lord found fault with the congregation. The fault was neither with the sower nor with the seed, but with the ground.

Christian Endeavour. A question that is sometimes asked in your Christian Endeavour conventions is: What is the influence of the Endeavour prayer-meeting on the midweek prayer-meeting of the church? In a report of a talk on this subject in a Christian Endeavour convention we find this statement: "I am sorry to say that the consensus of reports was to the effect that while not detrimental, but little stimulus was given by means of these meetings. Of course there are exceptions among the reports." Admitting that this is a truthful report of the conference, how is the obligation of the members of these societies to be reconciled with this statement? If Christian Endeavour is doing the young people any good it is teaching them to pray, and it is preparing a class of them at least to take part in the church prayer-meeting to the edification of the attendants. But whatever it may accomplish in this direction, it is supposed to teach all of its members to love the prayer-meeting and to make them more faithful in their attendance. Whatever

else an Endeavourer may be able or unable to do to increase the interest of the church prayer-meeting, he can contribute the light of his countenance, and by his devout attention to what is said by others he can render the pastor and those who take part in the exercises an important service. Every attentive and thoughtful listener adds something to the interest of the meeting. And that, at least, every Endeavourer ought to do.

Memorial of Robt. Leighton. An interesting movement has been started in Scotland in connection with the completed Restoration of Dunblane Cathedral. The object of the movement is to erect a memorial of Robert Leighton by filling with stained glass one of the two great windows of the cathedral with which his name is so closely connected. No adequate national memorial of Leighton has yet been erected, and the restoration of Dunblane Cathedral seems a fit occasion on which to atone for the undoubted neglect of a unique figure in the annals of the Scottish Church. A circular has been drawn up and signed by representatives of the Established, Free, United Presbyterian and Episcopal Churches in Scotland, and it is proposed to send a copy to every minister of these Churches with a request to give or raise a guinea toward the object in view. Should this appeal meet with the anticipated response, the movement will be successful. The fact that Dr. Marshall Lang, Dr. Walter C. Smith, the Bishop of Brechin, Dr. W. Blair, and Rev. A. Ritchie, minister of the parish, have signed the circular is a testimony to the place which Leighton's chastened and beautiful character holds in the memory of Scotsmen of all creeds.

Beyond the Reach of Science. High as a man is placed above the creatures around him, there is a higher and more exalted position within his view: and the ways are infinite in which he occupies his thoughts, the fears or hopes, or expectations of a future life. I believe that the truth of the future cannot be brought to his knowledge by any exertion of his mental powers, however exalted they may be; that it is made known to him by other teaching than his own, and is received through simple belief of the testimony given. Let no one suppose for a moment that the self-education I am about to commend in respect of the things of this life, extends to any considerations of the hope set before us, as if man by reasoning could find out God. It would be improper here to enter upon this subject further than to claim an absolute distinction between religious and ordinary belief. I shall be reproached with the weakness of refusing to apply those mental operations which I think good in respect of high things to the very highest. I am content to bear the reproach. Yet even in earthly matters, I believe that the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; and I have never seen anything incompatible between these things of man which can be known by the spirit of man which is within him, and those higher things concerning his future which he cannot know by that spirit.—*Prof. Faraday.*

A true Christian is the representative of Christ in the world, the only embodiment of Gospel teaching and influence presented in human society. How vitally important is it, then, that those of us who profess and call ourselves Christians should make our Christianity attractive!