

but this was regarded as the best proof that good work was being accomplished.

Then there was a splendid staff of teachers. Some of them now fill important places in the Church in different parts of this land. Some have been called into the "nearer presence of the Lord," and some are here with their classes to-day. How delighted I am to see the superintendent, teachers and scholars of the mission of Knox church in which I had the honor to do my first work in this city. I must say I see improvement, yes, there has been progress. The work has been well maintained. Knox church has showed a good example at home in looking after a part of the city so needy. Is not this one of the reasons why, Mr. Chairman, your congregation has devised such liberal things for the Foreign Fields. Dr. Parsons, I, with the other speakers, do count it a precious opportunity you and your session have given us to be present to-day to see what the Lord hath wrought in your midst and to join in the prayer that your ministry, and the labors of the workers in this congregation may have more than ever the divine approval.

Then followed addresses from former superintendents of the Sabbath School. Mr. John L. Blaikie on rising said. "Many hallowed memories come over me as I stand here to-day. Thirty two years ago I became superintendent of Knox Church Sabbath School, and twenty-two years ago I retired from that position by reason of illness. You have now a beautiful Sabbath Schoolroom, light bright and comfortable. Long ago in my time we met in the basement, away downstairs, but I can tell you we had many a happy day there, and much earnest faithful work was done by a noble, devoted band of teachers. It is a great satisfaction to me to meet you on this happy occasion, when you are celebrating the fiftieth year of your history as Knox Church Sabbath School, and on looking over this large gathering I see two things that afford me uncommon pleasure, one is that I see quite a goodly number present who were teachers in the school when I was superintendent, and the other is, that many of those who are now teachers in the school were then scholars in the classes.

Your present superintendent Mr. James Knowles junior was then one of the scholars. Mr. R. Gourlay now superintendent of West Presbyterian Church was also a scholar here, and besides these others are now elders or office bearers in the Church doing service for our blessed Lord and Master.

I could recall by name a number of the Sabbath School Teachers when I was superintendent who are not here, having been called home and have passed the pearly gates into the Father's house above.

My dear boys and girls let me tell you that I once saw a boy with his ear pushed close to the keyhole of a door. How intently

he was listening trying to hear what was being said on the other side. It was a mean thing to do, but for all that he was an attentive and eager listener.

Now when superintendent in this school I had great delight in speaking to the scholars, and many of them were most attentive listeners, they not only listened but ran, and I shall tell you how. Your present superintendent and many of your teachers were both listeners and runners. They listened to God's voice when He said, Son, Daughter, "Give me your heart, open it to me and I will come in and make you strong and happy."

Then they ran but in doing so looked out for foot prints to follow. If you go out on a winter morning when snow has fallen, you can tell at once whether any person has been around, because if they have you can see footprints in the snow and these can easily be followed.

Now many of my old scholars listened to God's voice and obeyed. When Jesus said, "follow me," they ran after him, looking for his footsteps. Just read his life and teaching and His footsteps are easily seen. No one following these can ever lose their way or end in trouble. Let all the dear boys and girls before me be eager listeners to God's voice as they read the Holy Bible and attend to their teachers lessons, and God grant that we may all be among the happy throng of whom you often sing.

"Around the throne of God in Heaven,
Thousands of children stand,
Thousands whose sins are all forgiven,
A holy, happy band, Singing Glory, Glory, Glory."

Mr. William Mortimer Clark Q.C., said that he supposed even the youngest in the audience knew that the church bore the name of one of the great leaders of the Reformation, one of whom Milton said that he was a great man, the reformer of a nation, and on whom rested the spirit of Almighty God. In proceeding with the work of the Reformation his most anxious care was to provide for the education and godly upbringing of the young. He was practically the founder of the first system of national education, a system which differed from all others as its basis was the education of the pupils in the Word of God. So marked was the effect of this training that some time after a well-known writer tells us that if a blind man passed over the border into England, he would be conscious of the time when he crossed the line from the coarseness of the people in England where cursing and profanity prevailed. The Presbyterian Church had continued to manifest the same care for the education of the young and the meeting of the day he said was an indication of that interest. He was glad to think that the education in Knox Church School had always been based on the Holy Scriptures and the Westminster Catechism.

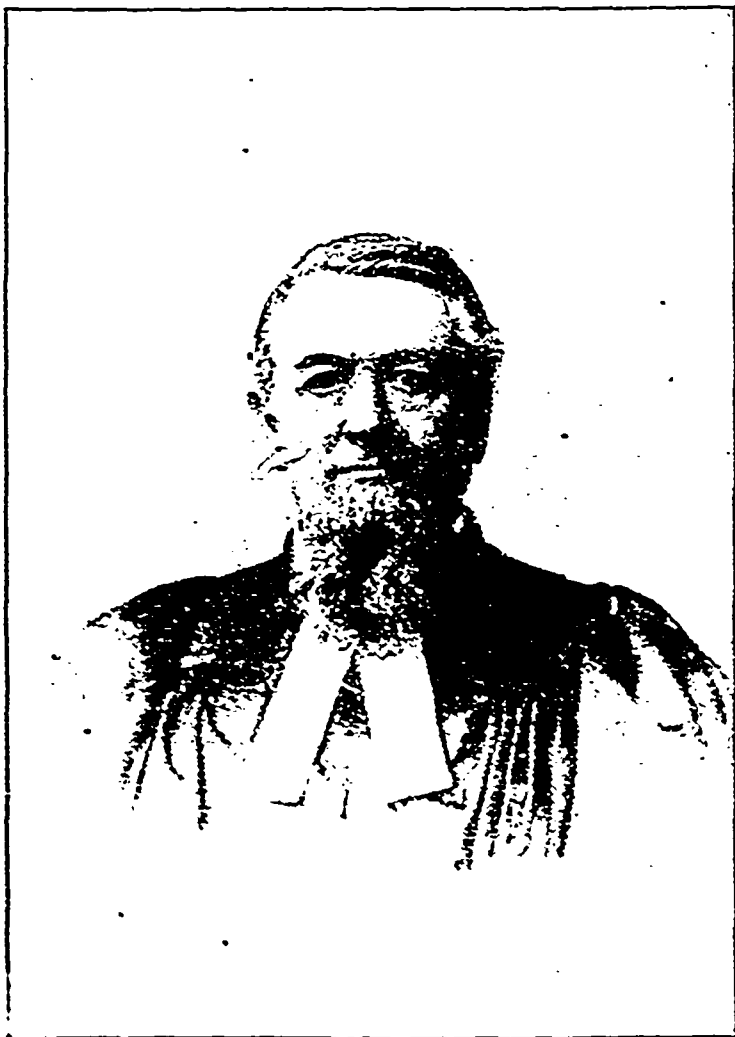
Possibly young people might think that the constant repetition of lessons was irksome. They must remember that the divine plan was line upon line, precept upon precept, and that young people as a distinguished French writer says, are like jars with long necks, into which if water is suddenly poured in a large quantity will receive little, and which require therefore to be slowly filled with small quantities. Mr. Clark urged the scholars to pay great attention to the systematic study of the great doctrines of the Word as systematized in the Catechism. They might think this a dry study but in after years they would value the knowledge then acquired as it would enable them more readily to discover and combat error when it appeared and would make them spiritually strong men and women, fit to continue in the church the work of those who preceded them.

W. B. McMurrich late superintendent of the school, spoke next. In the course of his remarks gave the scholars some reminiscences of his boyhood as a scholar, having gone there while his father, the Hon. John McMurrich, was superintendent, towards the end of the forties. He described the old-fashioned school in the basement with its classes and method of study and especially emphasizing the thoroughness with which the catechism was taught and the memorizing of the Psalms and Paraphrases, there being no hymns in those days. He also showed how the former pastors, Rev. Dr. Burns and others had paid particular stress to the knowledge of the children in the matter of the catechism during their pastoral visits from house to house and gave graphic descriptions of the methods then in use by the pastors of the Presbyterian Churches.

The vivid description of a visit paid by him to Lucerne and his trip further up the Rhigi during a thunder-storm seen from the top of the mountain, looking down into the Swiss valley surrounded by mountains with the storm going on below them and then clearing, gave him the opportunity of using it as an illustration of the pathway the children were traveling up the hill of life. He closed by urging the children to always have a goal in view in life, whether in the Sabbath-School or out of it and always to press upward and onward with steady perseverance.

Mr. George Laidlaw spoke briefly but earnestly of the work that had been done by the school in the past and the responsibility of those now in charge of the young souls who in a few years would fill the places of those who now addressed them.

A large congregation assembled in the evening, when the Rev. Prof MacLaren preached appropriately and earnestly from Deuteronomy ix. 2, which will be published in our next issue.



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