

"WHAT IS PRESBYTERIAN LAW As defined by church courts"—is the title of a goodly seized volume by Rev. J. A. Hodge of Princeton, published by the Presbyterian Board of Publication.

It is in the form of question and answer. Questions are asked on every conceivable subject, in connection with the work of the church in every department. It would be a difficult matter to invent a question on any subject concerning any part of the duty of a minister, elder, or church member so far as christian duty and church life are concerned, whether in the Family, Congregation, Session, Presbytery, Synod or Assembly that is not here asked and answered, not by Dr. Hodge, but by quotations from the decisions of Assemblies, Books of law and order, writings of eminent men, &c. It is not a statute book such as our book of "Rules and Forms." It is a collection of "precedents" from a long list of authorities on all possible subjects that come within the range of Presbyterian Law, and must be of great value to ministers and elders and church members, who wish to get, in convenient and simple form, a complete survey and statement of Presbyterian Polity.

The Book may be had from Duncan McGregor, Maritime Book and Stationery store, Halifax. Price \$1.75.

LIFE OF DR. GEDDIE, BY DR. PATTERSON.—Of which we gave prospectus, and notice, with extracts in a former number is now out. Even to those who take no special interest in missions it will be a most interesting narrative; it is true yet stranger than much of the fiction afloat. To those interested in missions there will be the added interest of the special subject, while to many of our readers who are already somewhat familiar with the life and work of Dr. Geddie, and some of them personally acquainted, it will be a glad meeting with old friends, a stirring of pleasant memories of bygone days. It may be had from Duncan McGregor, Halifax, or James McLean, Pictou. Price \$1.50.

A REPLY TO PROFESSOR ROBERTSON SMITH, BY REV. PETER MELVILLE, M. A. B. D.—It has already appeared in the columns of the *Presbyterian Witness* in a series of letters and is therefore known to many of our readers. For greater ease of reference and for more permanent preservation, it has been published in pamphlet form and is for sale by A. & W. Mackinlay, Halifax. Price 10cts.

FREE WILL OFFERING.

River John, April 29, 1882.

REV. E. A. McCURDY:

Dear Sir:—Among those who have adopted the voluntary system of raising the stipends is the Salem Church Congregation of River John.

Our mode has been the weekly offering and in the following manner. A box stand at the entrance to receive contributions, envelopes are kept on hand for the purpose, each person contributing writes his or her name on the envelope with amount enclosed. A committee of three count the money at stated times, and place to the credit of parties the amount deposited. At the end of financial year 1st June the books are made up, and a printed statement placed in the hands of each contributor.

It is now about eight years since we adopted this system and have met with fair success. In contrast to the old subscription lists we have found it much better for various reasons:—It is not half the trouble, it gives people a chance to do their duty unasked, and persons can contribute small sums which are not felt, by the giver. Like the offering of the ancient Israelite, a ram or a turtle dove as the case may be, is accepted.

But as in other matters perfection cannot be obtained until the people become perfect. The principal defect with us is a delay in paying up, leaving, too much to be paid in the last quarter of the year. This I believe is occasioned to a large extent by neglecting the weekly offering. Again there may be a few, who left to the freedom of their wills shirk the duty altogether. Happily this number is small.

I notice that some congregations have adopted a common fund and no published reports. Where this mode is successful it certainly works a higher standard. We have chosen the 'publishing' system to stimulate ambition where it is needed, where it is not needed, no harm is done.

Our mission schemes were formerly by collection in church. It is now managed by the Ladies of the congregation who make a personal canvass, and have far exceeded the amount raised in the old way.

Yours truly,

A. MCKENZIE.

As was mentioned in last number this issue has been kept back a few days in order to give the Statistical tables and Reports of the Boards having charge of the various schemes of the Church.