

HERE AND AWAY.

It has been found necessary to omit the "Canadian Presbyterian Mission Fields" series this month, in order that information might be obtained to make the series complete. The sketch of "The West Indies" by Rev. A. Falconer, of Pictou, will appear in the April MONTHLY. Mr. Falconer was himself a missionary to Trinidad for a number of years, and will write from personal knowledge. "Formosa," by Rev. G. M. Milligan, will appear in May; and the others in regular order.

There was no small stir among the theological students at Knox College, when it was announced that the Presbytery of Toronto had decided that in future, the examination of graduating students to be taken on trial for license shall be written, and not oral. Boycotting was freely talked of, and the outlook seemed dark for the presbytery.

The students need not worry. The obnoxious legislation will not likely be carried into effect. The promoters of this new law evidently were ignorant of the new Book of Forms, which requires no preliminary examination on college work.

It does seem unreasonable to demand a written examination on all the literary and theological subjects studied in colleges, at a time when students are in the midst of, or have just finished, their very exacting examinations in the college. Besides, such a written examination seems both unnecessary and incompetent. The students are taught by professors appointed by and responsible to the Church, and are examined by a committee appointed annually by the Church. Surely that should satisfy a presbytery. Then, too, it would not serve the purpose desired, as a man might answer satisfactorily in the words of the professor, but if examined orally, might be found to hold quite different views himself. The orthodoxy of a candidate, his own personal opinions on the great fundamentals, and his motives and purpose in seeking to enter the ministry, are the things the presbytery should know, but the very things a written examination would not reveal.

But then, it may be that the written examination was proposed as much in the interest of the examiners as of the students. An examiner is sometimes tested more severely than the candidate. A slip or a foolish question is so embarrassing.

Perhaps it was the counter excitement of the Dominion elections that made the College elections rather tame this year. In "ye olden tyme" the air in the corridors and class-rooms was surcharged with electricity for weeks before the first Friday in March. The memory of those days is like the screech of the blood-stirring pibroch. But this year there were no