

ADDRESS OF REV. A. MOWATT.

AT MR. BRUCE'S INDUCTION.

We cannot refrain from giving to our readers part of Mr. Mowatt's address on the occasion of Mr. Bruce's induction into St. David's Church, St. John. As a literary composition it is certainly a masterpiece. But better far than its shape and polish, is its ring. In these days, when sometimes from the platform and press there is so much moral and theological gush.

When even so-called religious newspapers, professing to be set for the defence of the gospel sometimes take up and reccho the old cry "liberty, equality and fraternity"; a cry which as of old generally means liberty for all to do as they list, equality of all so-called religious beliefs and doctrines, fraternity with moral and spiritual communists and nihilists of every stamp, A cry, which as of old generally ends in Moral and Spiritual anarchy, it is refreshing to hear and read such addresses.

May a kind Providence grant to us more and more abundantly a pulpit and a press that will call things by their right names and stand by the truth as does the following. —

Brother, I have been appointed to address you on this solemn occasion, and I am happy to welcome you among us. You come to us a comparative stranger, but I can assure you that, as a Presbytery, we will do what we can to make you feel at home down here by the sea, and I am sure this congregation will do so, too. I trust that neither you nor we will ever have cause to regret that you cast in your lot among us. Your predecessor was dear to us all, and our best wish for you is that you may soon come to fill his place.

Perhaps I cannot do better, in the little I have to say to you on the subject of preaching, than remind you of those soul-stirring words of the great Paul to young Timothy. From the Roman prison gender, with his noble life-work all but done, with the good fight of faith all but fought out, with the glowing race-course all but run over, and with the goal of glory in full view, he says to him, with an earnestness that

neither you nor I can appreciate as yet but still we may perhaps catch a little of his white-hot enthusiasm, : "Preach the word: be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all long suffering and doctrine."

You are to preach the Word; not philosophy, not politics, not the great questions of the day, not the speculations of modern science, etc. No. You are to get at the mind of the Divine Spirit, you are to fill your soul and heart with the rich word of God, and you are to preach that. It is the word of God the people of St. John need, not men's words and it is the word of God they want. Let the glorious old doctrines of the reformation ring in this church, not the insipidities of modern thought, nor the uncertainties of the new theologies. Set up the cross right here in the midst, not a more gilded one; but the cross of Christ and gather your people round it Sabbath after Sabbath and show them the crucified Son of God from every point of view. Tell them over and over again the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

And, my dear brother, if you yourself dwell in the light of that glory and draw your inspiration and your warmth and joy and power from that grand theme; then your preaching can never be stale nor uninteresting to your people. They will come and hear gladly your living words and they will go away refreshed and cheered to live them out. No theme can be so interesting to poor perishing sinners, nor to tried and tempted Christians struggling hard for life with the mighty influence of the world and the powers of darkness, as the cross. It speaks to the sinner of hope; it tells the Christian of victory; it points men to heaven. And, moreover, that is the preaching, and the only preaching, that is going to be really successful — the only preaching that is going to draw. Jesus says, "And I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me." Preach Christ crucified, then; "preach the Word."

Then you are to be instant in season, out of season. The dying Paul shouts to Timothy from off the headman's bloody block, so to speak, lest the young preacher might be discouraged and intimidated by "the fate of his great spiritual father; "Stand to it! Keep at it, when the season is good, and when there is no season at all! Be instant in season, out of season!"

Brother, here is a motto for you. It was Paul's and it should be every Christian minister's. What expressive words!