

of the Presbyterian Church in England, a position for which he was peculiarly fitted by his scholarship and by his temper. He was at home in Hebrew, Syriac, Arabic, as well as in the great modern languages, and he was thoroughly versed in the products of the German and French critical schools. Few men ever won more effectually the confidence and the affection of students, and his short career as Professor was an unqualified success.

While occupying a professorial chair, Dr. Elmslie continued to be in constant demand as a preacher, and his pulpit work was not confined to any particular denomination. Thoughtful, earnest, fresh, speaking from the heart to the heart, he was equally at home among audiences of workmen, of city business men, or of learned professors and university graduates. He had learned and felt experimentally what he preached and taught. He had fought his way through darkness and doubt into the light. Hence the sense of reality in his sermons and essays. He believed, therefore he spoke and wrote. He was not a religious theorist and did not deal in correct abstractions. His heart, his soul, was in his teaching.

He had made his way through "modern doubt" as well as through scholastic orthodoxy, and he reached the safe standing ground of the love of God and the saving power of Christ. No man had a firmer grip of the truth: no man held the Bible in more reverent esteem, and few indeed have so intelligently attempted to show the relation between the Bible and modern science.

Professor Elmslie was emphatically a writer, as he was a preacher, for the times. He had the faculty of uttering the *present* truth. His treatment of Ernest Renan in one of the "Present Day Tracts," his essay in the *Contemporary Review*, on the first chapter of Genesis, his papers on Socialism in *Good Words*, and his address on the same subject before the Presbyterian Council in London, in 1888, are in themselves of great interest and value, but are of special interest as indicating what we might fairly expect had the brilliant Professor's life been spared. The volume containing his "Memoir and Sermons" recently published by Hodder & Stoughton has at once attained remarkable popularity and is calculated to be widely useful. Professor Elmslie died of

typhoid fever. He had worked far too arduously for a man who was not gifted with special physical strength. He was for some years doing the work of two men: teaching, preaching, writing, and no wonder his health failed and that his nervous system was so shattered that when typhoid seized him he sank rapidly. Among his last words, while very feeble in mind and body, were these: "God is love, all love. We will tell everyone that, but especially our own boy." Professor Elmslie left a young widow and a boy. Friends in England have raised a memorial fund to be used for the education of the boy. The influence of the young Professor will not soon pass away. His best service to the Church—to all the churches—was, perhaps, this: He showed by his life, by his teachings, and in his death that the new learning, or call it the new criticism, at its best is consistent with the most loyal faith in Christ, the most fervent love and zeal in His service, and the most tender sympathy with the suffering, the wronged, the oppressed and the lost. Of what avail is the glitter of consummate scholarship or the most rigidly accurate orthodoxy if love to Christ, faith in God, and a Christlike passion for service to man be not there! But Elmslie was at once a consummate scholar, an orthodox theologian, and a lover of God and of all human souls.

## Presbyterianism in Vancouver Island.

### No. II.

IN addition to the First Church and St. Andrew's, active efforts have recently been made in the direction of church extension in Victoria West, a growing suburb, under the charge of the writer in connection with the associated stations of Esquimalt and Cedar Hill, in the near vicinity of which, along with three other stations, Craig Flower, Metchosin and Sooke, he has been in charge since the spring of 1886. The three last named were formed into a separate charge last March and have since been supplied by a student and catechist.

Victoria has a population of upwards of 20,000, with beautiful situation and surroundings. It is the capital of the Prov-