

Neil may not have spoken thus plainly, but his remark that church members ought to be ready to make sacrifices for each other, shows that his mind is working in the right direction, and this we may safely say, that if the idea here expressed were brought into the life of the church as a widely diffused factor, the church would be a power for good in the world, the effect of which it would be difficult for the human mind to estimate. Mr. Neil's third point was that spiritual life showed itself in a regard for Foreign Mission work. Undoubtedly. The obvious outcome of homes radiant with the love of God, of Christian brotherhood embracing mankind, would be the sharing of the gracious gifts of the Gospel with all the sons of Adam. And Mr. Neil's order of placing these steps is to be commended: First the hearthstone—the home church; next the brethren—Home Missions; and then the circumference—all the world: a magnificent view of Christian relationship, alive and connected by the spiritual forces in every heart.

The relation of the church to the Young People's Societies is a live subject which naturally found speakers at the conference. Those who gave their views were men of more than ordinary experience in work among the young and their opinions are therefore valuable. The crux seems to be how far the pastor and office-bearers ought to control or direct the Societies. It is desirable that there should be systematic organization in the church within well-understood limits. The Societies would be strengthened were a scheme devised by which their position could be clearly defined—not weakened. Congregational control should not be found irksome by the young people and we do not think it probable that there would be serious objection to the position laid down by Rev. Mr. Patterson when he says: "The minister of the church is the general, and the officers of the church are his staff; the young people should recognize and acknowledge this, and then the power which, as bodies they really are, would be directed by the church so that it would not be wasted." The usefulness in the congregation and in the general community of the Societies depends to a very great extent on its being an integral part of the congregation fighting harmoniously with the other congregational agencies. It is not a question of rights or privileges, of freedom or subserviency, but the far higher one of winning souls to Christ and of building up a Christian character, and no fitter motto can the young people adopt than that of the Master which may be translated Ich Dien—I serve.

Foreign Missions was the subject of Rev. Dr. MacDonald, Dundee's address as retiring moderator of the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa. His successor in the chair is Rev. Geo. McArthur, Cardinal.

#### QUALIFICATIONS THE TEST.

IN connection with the vacancy in Knox College, it may be taken for granted that the Board will recommend, and that the General Assembly will appoint, the best available man, irrespective of his nationality or the Presbyterian church he may at present be connected with. The course followed in the appointment of Rev. Prof. Robinson gave general satisfaction, and was abundantly justified by results. No doubt the qualifications of the candidates will determine the recommendation that will be made. Nevertheless we publish an extract from Rev. Principal Edward's address delivered in connection with an appointment to Bala College Wales, sent to us by an esteemed correspondent who deems it may strengthen the Board of Knox College in the action they are likely to take,

by showing the views taken in somewhat similar circumstances by the Welsh Calvinistic church.

"It is not fair to oppose Mr. Stevenson because he is a Scotsman. Scotsmen have appointed a Welshman to the chair of Moral Philosophy (Pro. Henry Jones) at Glasgow University, and the question comes to this; Is there any difference between the work of Welshmen appointing a Scotsman to teach Hebrew and that of Scotsmen in appointing a Welshman to lecture on Philosophy? Some may contend that there is some difference between lecturing on Philosophy and Hebrew. But can they point out anything unsatisfactory in Mr. Stevenson respecting the subject he was to lecture upon which might not be said of his fellow candidates? If they can do so, I shall be prepared to give my vote in favour of the two Welshmen, for I do not hesitate to say that the fact of their being Welsh is a recommendation in my sight. But the superiority of Mr. Stevenson is so marked, as may be seen from the testimonials, that I am compelled to support him, though I am as patriotic a Welshman as any of you. I do not believe in the cry of Wales for the Welshmen. On the contrary, I am of opinion that the wider we make our country and college the better it will be for Wales and the Welsh, and that anything in the way of restriction is really an injustice to Wales."

#### TAX EXEMPTIONS.

OUR recent comment on the crusade against tax exemption gives the Montreal *Gazette* occasion to express the opinion that "the discussion of the principle of tax exemptions has had its effect. It is recognized that it is wrong." One of the curious things in connection with the discussion has been the want of reasons against Church exemption. There is no lack of talk, but it is clamour for the abolition of Church exemption, without bringing forward reasons. When the agitation was rather lively last Fall, an abolitionist was asked to give reasons why a tax should be imposed on churches. He retorted by asking why churches should be exempted. Many reasons were submitted but they were not answered, nor refuted. The weakness of the case for abolition consists in the persistency with which the real issues have been either obscured or ignored. One of the leading representatives of the abolitionists stated that probably the churches would not be taxed, but that it was necessary to ask for abolition all along the line in order to get any concession at all, failing to see the dishonesty of such a course. Were the question discussed, generally, on its merits, we feel convinced the people would condemn the attempt to cripple the church whose resources are now taxed to the utmost by the demands of its work.

#### ROMANISM AND EDUCATION.

THE Spanish American war has evoked many articles from journalists, on the internal condition of Spain from the religious and literary stand-points: The following two paragraphs may be justly placed in juxtaposition, the inference from the one being furnished by the other:

"There is no country on the face of the earth and no monarchy so intensely loyal to Rome as Spain, her Catholicism is genuine, and differs radically from that of France, or even Italy. What the Pope says is tremendously potent."

And,

"We all respect the Queen as a pure, brave and true woman, and very devoted to the fortunes of her little son. But, outside of her personality, the government is boss-ridden and corrupt. The elections are tainted with fraud, and the common people have little or no conception of what liberty according to English principles means. Only 21 per cent. of the women of Spain can read or write. The percentage of men is somewhat larger. But the whole country is in that backward retrograde condition that does not augur well for its future standing among the nations."