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THE LATE PROFESSOR DRUMMOND.

ALTHOUGH suffering for a considerable time from ill-health, and at times very low indeed, Professor Drummond had youth and a good constitution in his favor, and the hope, now also doomed, that he would be restored to health, was very generally held. His death therefore as a surprise, and a most painful one. For a number of years he has been a world-wide celebrity. His books have been read everywhere and have fascinated the people. His personality was also widely known, for he had travelled extensively, and those who knew the man loved him more than they did his books. So, his death is a sad blow to thousands of friends and to tens of thousands of admirers.

He was greatly impressed by Mr. Moody and his work. He visited Northfield and wrote about the remarkable evangelist and his labors. He was of an impressionable, enthusiastic temperament, and noble work in a good cause, especially if carried on against great odds, had a wonderful charm for him. His buoyancy, broad sympathy and consecrated ardor were marked traits of his character, and his love for humanity was simply boundless. It is easy, therefore, to understand his attachment to Mr. Moody, and the latter's potent influence over his mind, over some lines of his thought, and over much of his active, personal, missionary work. Mr. Moody might not give a certificate for all the young professor's opinions, but there was an unfathomable bond of love between them, and of sympathy on the main points of religious conviction. It might not be too much to say that to Mr. Moody's influence was due the interesting revival which Professor Drummond conducted among the students of the Scottish Universities and Halls of learning. The professor threw himself into the work with all the zest and zeal of his ardent nature and the results were uncommonly remarkable and satisfactory. Other mission work claimed his attention at this time. The Cowcaddens' Free Church, Glasgow, had had a glorious evangelical record. Its affairs had become involved in difficulties and the pulpit was vacant. A few kindred spirits; mindful of the past and knowing the great need for a flourishing missionary church in the congested district in which it was situated, stood pluckily in the breach and kept up the services. Professor T. M. Lindsay, whose own soul was then receiving refreshing showers of blessing, was one of the band. Professor Drummond was another; and missionary work elsewhere claimed his attention besides. Two important results were; the settlement of Rev. Wm. Ross, in Cowcaddens' church and the marvellous evangelical agency into which it has developed under his pastorate; and Professor Drummond's first famous book "Natural Law in the Spiritual World." As a writer of lucid, charming English, that book gave him an enviable position, and his fame spread abroad with its phenomenal circulation. Before this he was known to many as clever, versatile, and chivalrous to a fault; thenceforth as one of the popular

writers of the day. But not many, had they been left uninformed of the fact, could have suspected that the fascinating paragraphs and chapters of the book were constructed from the materials of the authors, missionary addresses to students and to the poor dwellers of the slums, and yet so they were. In the slums, the agnostic and the skeptic, as well as the drunkard and the criminal, had to be faced and spoken to. In the college hall the budding students of science and philosophy were apt to adopt shallow views of religions too hastily; and so he sought to provide for all classes and the foundation of the book was in that way laid. The reading of it does not suggest the missionary address, but as delivered in the east end of Glasgow and at the other meetings the addresses were effective.

With the name won by this book, his difficulty was to resist the demands of publishers and almost everything he wrote became the vogue. As the book recedes into time distance (it was published in 1884) the glamour of its style fades, and a truer estimate is placed upon it. Before it was published a Glasgow Theological Professor, an esteemed colleague, noted for his originality and freshness of thought, warned him against giving it to the public, saying it would destroy his future, either as a man of science or theologian; and one of the severest criticisms it has encountered came from the pen of Rev. Dr. James Denney, who had just graduated from the Free Church College with a reputation for distinguished scholarship. It was Dr. Denney's first book, and was eagerly read, the critic and the criticised being warm personal friends. His "Ascent of Man" (1894) added to Professor Drummond's popularity if not to his reputation among scholars, and thinkers. Some of his smaller brochures may prove really more useful than his more ambitious and less definitely expressed productions. He has been attacked on account of views held to be inconsistent with sound theology. No one will deny that he is vague in some of his views on important, accepted truths; and vague writing is fraught with danger. But his consuming love for Christ and his personal faith cannot be assailed. Some who knew him intimately may still think that he went beyond his strength in his effort to harmonize the conclusions arrived at by some of the high exponents of science, with the truths of Revelation, but no one who knew him well will question the high motive actuating him. His first book was published, as has been said, in face of advice from a colleague, because he believed the addresses had been blessed to sinners and believed the book would do like good; as to his reputation as a thinker he cared not what the world might say.

He fairly well estimated his own powers and did not claim great scholarship. His natural vocation lay in the direction of his chair, that of Natural Science. For a number of years he was lecturer in that subject at the Free Church College, Glasgow, and in 1884 when the lectureship was raised to the dignity of a professorship change was effected, to some extent, in order to pay a compliment to the accomplished young lecturer whose devotion to his subject was cordially recognized by the church. He was born at Stirling in 1851 and at the age of twenty six was appointed lecturer, as stated, at Glasgow. He came of the Drummonds who founded, by their means and as a work of philanthropy, the Drummond Tract Depot, Stirling, to whose agency so much good, the world over, can be traced.

UNION MISSION BOARD.

The remit from the General Assembly anent the formation of a Union Mission Board is running the gauntlet of the Presbyteries. Its reception thus far has been of a mixed character. At first glance the proposition seems to be a step in the right direction and