

Reviews.

**THE VOYAGE OF H. M. S. "CHALLENGER."**  
Voyages over many Seas, Scenes in many Lands. By W. J. J. Spurr, R.N. Toronto: Belford Brothers.

On the 21st December, 1872, H. M. S. *Challenger*, a steam corvette of 2,000 tons displacement, and 400 horse-power, sailed from Portsmouth on a four years' voyage of scientific exploration around the globe, traversing the great oceans from north to south and from east to west. Professor Wyville Thomson was the director of the scientific staff, and Captain G. S. Narves was at the head of the naval surveying department. During the voyage, sounding, dredging, thermometric observation and chemical examination of sea-water were carried on continuously, with a view to a more perfect knowledge of the physical and biological conditions of the great ocean basins, of the direction and velocity of the great currents, of the fauna of the deep water, and of the zoology and botany of those portions of the globe which had previously been comparatively unknown. The expedition was sent out under the authority and at the expense of the British Government, and received its instructions from the Hydrographic Department at the Admiralty. The *Challenger* crossed the North Atlantic Ocean twice in different latitudes, sailed over a great part of it twice (from north to south and from south to north) in different longitudes, traversed the Pacific Ocean, and the Southern Ocean as far as the seventieth parallel, made many devious windings in the neighborhood of Australia and New Zealand, and among the islands of the Eastern Archipelago, visited China and Japan, explored the Pacific Ocean from the fortieth parallel of north latitude to the fortieth parallel of south latitude, passed through Magellan's Strait, touched at the Falkland Islands, Monte Video, Ascension and the Cape Verde Islands, made a circuit round the Azores, called at Lisbon, and thence "to Britain back again." Mr. Spurr, the author of the book under review, was one of the ship's officers. He gives a full, particular and very interesting account of the voyage, with descriptions of the places visited, their inhabitants, productions, etc. These descriptions are accompanied by many illustrations representing strange and beautiful scenes in distant lands. Messrs. Belford Brothers have executed the mechanical and artistic parts of the work in their usual attractive style.

The Legal Aspects of the Macdonnell Case.

Editor BRITISH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN.

SIR,—It is certain that the case before the Presbytery was simply and only a recognition. The Presbytery tried to find out whether, as was rumored, the party implicated promulgated and held opinions on the eternity of future punishment inconsistent with the doctrine contained in the Confession of Faith. The recognition with all the documents was referred to the General Assembly. Part of the reference was Mr. Macdonnell's "statement," viz., "Notwithstanding difficulties which I have regarding the eternity of future punishment, I continue my adherence to that doctrine as implied in my assent to the confession of Faith, formerly given." Along with this the Presbytery transmitted "an expression of the hope that the Assembly may find it a satisfactory basis for the settlement of the case," and the request that the Assembly "would finally issue it." It is evident that the Presbytery's request to be relieved of the case could only be granted consistently with the limitations and provisions of constitutional process. If, for example, the Assembly found the "statement" in the reference satisfactory, that would be a final issue of the case, for the referred recognition would then take end. Or, if Mr. Macdonnell declared that he no longer held the doctrine of the Confession, the final issue of the reference would be the passing of a sentence suited to the case. But if the "statement" was not found satisfactory, and Mr. Macdonnell did not confess departure from the doctrine of the Confession, then, the only final issue of the case permissible to the law and constitution of the Church would be to remit it to the Presbytery for further judicial process. It is at this stage the case is now suspended. The Assembly has said in effect that the statement, as explained by Mr. Macdonnell is "unsatisfactory," and it has given him time to make it satisfactory. If he does so at the next Assembly, then the case will take end; if not, and if he still avows his adherence to the doctrine of the Confession, then the only thing the Assembly can do is to remit it to the Presbytery with instructions to proceed to deal with it according to the laws of the Church.

2. Neither in Presbytery, Synod, nor Assembly has there been any action or process other than what is peculiar to a recognition. There has been no formulating of any charge, no citation, no testing of parties at the judicial bar, nothing but inquiry, consideration, and conference. To say that the Assembly shifted its ground, and, departing from the record or deed of reference which alone it had legally before it, took up as a new case, "statements made in its presence," is contrary to the express terms of the records of the Court. Every record of the proceeding is placed under the heading, "Reference from the Presbytery of Toronto." This heading occurs eleven times, and the phrase appears in many introductory sentences. Nor was the explanatory statement of Mr. Macdonnell new matter. It was simply an expansion and explanation of the statement made to the Presbytery. It passed

only for such. The Assembly made no record of it, asked no verification of its contents. It could only be properly alluded to in motions as pertaining to the reference. Nor did the Presbytery ever fall from its reference. Its representatives might avow or disavow what opinions they pleased, but the Presbytery had nothing to do with either the avowals or disavowals. It stood simply and only on its own record, that, and that only, was the matter legitimately before the Assembly. If, while professing to deal with the reference, the Assembly dealt with another matter, and that without notice to the parties concerned, it committed an irregularity and a wrong. That it will say that it did this, or that it will act on such an assumption, UNION does not believe.

3. But, granting that the statement made by Mr. Macdonnell on the floor of the Assembly, in explanation of his position in relation to the reference, were made the grounds of the Assembly's decision, the question arises, to what do they amount? Are they a confession of error or a denial of doctrine? The Assembly has not said so. A or B may construe them into one or other of these, but that will not make them such. The days are past when men are to be condemned on implications or constructive errors. The motion that carried contains an assumed quotation of Mr. Macdonnell's words, but they are not such. He repeatedly and emphatically declared that although he had difficulties on the subject, he had yet not adopted any opinions at variance with the doctrine of the confession. Do such difficulties, which necessitate no change of faith, constitute an offence in the church? This is the question to be determined, and before it can be determined the measure and nature of the difficulty or doubt must be explicated in some precise and formal manner. It may be nothing more than a scruple of conscience or a tender regard for literal truth. It may be more, but who, in this case, can tell precisely what it is? It evidently requires to be formulated that it may be prepared for legal decision. If it is to go further there ought to be a distinct charge (tabled in the form of a libel, so that the accused may know of what he is accused, and that the offence charged may be shown by proof and argument to be an offence contrary to Scripture and the Confession of Faith. Who knows but that such a process might be the means of settling the difficulties? It would at least take the question away from the loose language of common speech and present it in clear legal phrase.

If Mr. Macdonnell's mind has undergone no change, it is manifest, in a legal point of view, that the Assembly must either dismiss the case as not transgressing the fair liberty allowed to every minister in the interpretation of the standards, or remit it to the Presbytery for further judicial process. "Union" avoids the discussion of the merits of the question and confines his attention to its legal aspects, soliciting that the Presbyterian Church in Canada should take no hasty steps in this matter, but show its regard for justice in discipline as well as for truth in doctrine.

Let this be a reply to the Rev. John Laing.

TESTIMONIALS OF A VALUABLE BOOK.

I HAVE examined with some care "Bible Animals" by Rev. J. G. Wood, and have pleasure in expressing the high opinion which I entertain of its merits. It is in every way worthy of the well known reputation of the author as an accurate and popular writer on Natural History. The style in which the work is written is exceedingly interesting, and the illustrations which adorn its pages are very beautiful, throwing light as it does on many passages of the Bible. This attractive volume is a valuable aid to the intelligent study of the Holy Scriptures. The Canadian edition is got up in a style that leaves nothing to be desired. This important and attractive work deserves, and we hope will obtain, a large circulation. Wm. McLauren, Prof. of Theology, Knox College, Toronto.

Births, Marriages and Deaths.

**BIRTH.**  
At Sherbrooke, N.S., on Thursday, the 19th inst., the wife of the Rev. James G. Quinn, of a son.

**MARRIED.**  
On Wednesday, April 11th, in Almonte, by the Rev. J. Cameron, Peter C. McGregor, of Carleton Place, to Sophia Kattie, of the same place.

**DIED.**  
Near Vittoria, Cal. on 24th ult., Walter David Oaks, of inflammatory croup, aged three years past, only son of Charles H. Oaks.

Official Announcements.

**MEETINGS OF PRESBYTERIES.**  
LESLIE—At Woodville, on the last Tuesday of May.  
OTTAWA—Next Presbytery meeting in Knox Church, Ottawa, on Monday, 7th May, at 2 o'clock P.M.  
QUEBEC—At Three Rivers, on the first Wednesday of July, at ten o'clock a.m.  
PARIS—Withn Dumfries Street Church, Paris, on the first Tuesday of July, at eleven a.m. Congregational payments to the Presbytery fund are payable at this meeting.  
TORONTO—In Lecture-room, Knox Church, on Tuesday, 1st of May, at 11 a.m.  
KINGSTON—In St. Andrew's Hall, Kingston, on 10th of July, at 3 p.m.  
WHITBY—At Whitby, on the third Tuesday of May, at 11 a.m.  
BROCKVILLE—At Prescott, on Tuesday, 3rd of July, at 7 p.m.  
LONDON—Special meeting in First Presbyterian Church, London, on 5th May.

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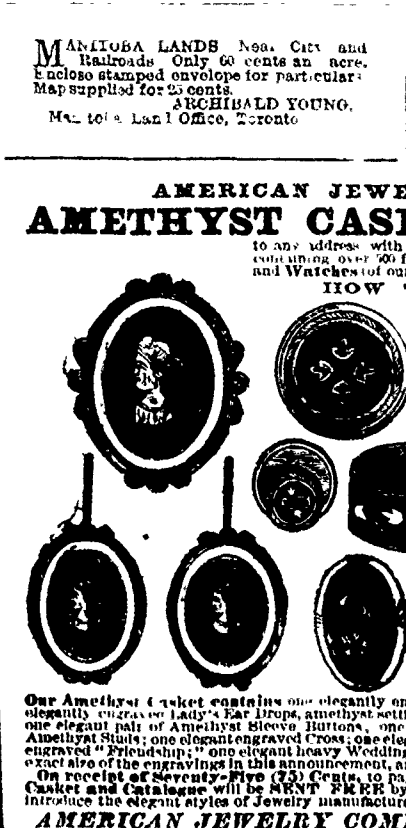
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