

This was signed, on behalf of the choir, by A. F. Birchard, Bertha Wilson and M. Brown. Mr. Birchard read the address. A large number of the gentlemen present spoke, testifying to the worth of Mr. Watson had been to the town of Cornwall, to Knox Church, and particularly to the choir. He will be sorely missed not only by Knox Church but by the town in general. Mr. Watson has secured a good position in Montreal, and it goes without saying, he is well able to fill it. Refreshments were served at the close and the gathering dismissed about 10 o'clock after singing the beautiful hymn, "Blest be the Tie that Binds."

Western Ontario.

Rev. J. A. McConnell, Creemore, conducted anniversary services in Ord and Rev. Mr. Burnett, of Alliston. The congregations were large, and a good offering.

Rev. W. G. Hanna of Mount Forest, was at Holstein on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings of last week, assisting the Rev. Mr. Little with evangelistic services.

That Cayuga is going to have a new Presbyterian church is a settled fact. Some weeks ago the congregation decided almost unanimously to build a new church, and a number of the members have signified their intention of contributing liberally toward the project. No site has yet been chosen, though Dr. Snider has generously offered to donate the vacant lot north of his residence.

At the congregational meeting of Durham church, Rev. Wm. Farquharson, pastor, held on Feb. 1st, encouraging reports from all parts of the work were presented. During the year 48 received into the membership of the church, 21 by certificate and 28 by profession of faith, while the removals amounted to 25, leaving on the roll a membership of 212. The total receipts for congregational purposes were \$2012 and the contributions for missionary and philanthropic purposes were \$404. The managers reported that all the debt on the church property had been cleared off and that there was in the treasury a cash balance of \$253.52. It was unanimously agreed that the pastor's salary be raised \$200. And that \$100 of the balance on hand be paid as a gratuity for 1903. The question of building a manse was left to a large representative committee.

Professor McFadyen and Cooke's Church.

BY REV. ANGUS MACKAY, M.A.

It appears from the article in THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN of January 20th that the agitation, made by several of the Toronto papers over Cooke's church of that city refusing to support Knox College, on account of unorthodox views held and taught by one of its professors, Rev. J. E. McFadyen M. A., is not very edifying, specially for two reasons.

1. They do not give any particular statements from the Professor's books which are regarded by some as unorthodox.

As very few newspaper readers have read his books, they cannot form an intelligent idea as to whether his views are right or wrong, without hearing at least some of these views. Take one look into each of two of his books. In his "Messages of the Prophetic and Priestly Historians," on page 79, he says regarding the first parts of the bible,—"The times with which they deal lie too far behind the written record for any accurate historical knowledge, in the strict sense of the word historical, to be possible. On the opposite page he says:—"Gleaming through the gray tradition are bright and indisputable facts." If we now look into "Old Testament Criticism and the Christian Church" at page 167 we read:—"Another reason for questioning the strict historicity of the patriarchal stories is the vast interval of time between the incidents and the record of them. Even assuming the Mosaic authorship, the record is over ten centuries later than the history. In other words, the historian of that early period is as much at a disadvantage as the modern historian of the times of Alfred the Great. Indeed, unless he has some special means of knowing the facts, he is at a much greater disadvantage. Besides, no claim is ever made by the writer that he had access to special sources of information. So far as we can tell he may be depending on tradition." Such are samples of very many things found in the Professor's books regarded by some as unorthodox.

2. The Toronto papers, instead of appealing to God, appeal to other College Professors to ascertain if Prof. McFadyen is right or wrong.

Seven hundred years before Christ, God solemnly reproved a people for acting in a similar way, and asked what he asks to-day:—"Should not a people seek unto their God?" giving the much needed direction, "To the law and to the testimony if they speak not according to this word it is because there is no light in them." Isa. 8: 19-20. We are here taught to judge religious teachings by God's word, and to give such high authority to that word that we shall courageously venture to despise all who contradict or oppose it, whatever position they may have in the world or in the church. If a professor of Knox, Queens, or Montreal, speak not according to God's written word, he manifests his own darkness. "If an angel from heaven preach anything else let him be accursed." Gal. 1: 8, 9.

Since those common people in Berea were commended by the Holy Spirit for searching the scriptures to test the teachings of the Apostles during their brief stay of a few weeks among them, surely it is now commendable for ministers, elders and people, who for years have been supporting College Professors for instructing their sons, to test the teachings of such Professors by those infallible scriptures. Appealing to another professor, or even to a number, as to whether Prof. McFadyen teaches truth or error, will not satisfy intelligent Presbyterians, who have been taught the right of private judgment, man's direct responsibility to God, and the duty of appealing to God's word as the only infallible rule of faith and practice.

In the light of God's word we learn that Christ, the Word, was, from the beginning in the world, exercising his prophetic office in giving forth the true light John 1: 1-10. He made known to Adam, Abel, and Enoch, by his word and spirit the way of life. He preached through Noah. He spake to Moses as a man speaketh to his friend. It was possible for him to give through Moses, accurate predictions of what was to happen to the Jews during two and three thousand years, as seen from the 28th chapter of Deut., surely he could have given accurate history regarding the creation, the fall of man, the Antediluvians, as well as regarding the Patriarchs. If Christ's eye saw thousands of years in the future, could he not see just as clearly into all past ages and could he not enable Moses to give an accurate account of the latter as well as of the former? Since we have "the more sure word of prophecy," we may be just as certain that we have sure and most accurate history, even in the first chapters of Genesis. Christ, the Word, speaks in those chapters as well as in the first chapters of John, and we ought not to be ashamed of, or reject any word of Christ.

God's word condemns Professor McFadyen's words. Moses, in writing the first parts of the bible, was not dependant on tradition. He was not as much at a disadvantage as the modern historian of the times of Alfred the Great. He was certainly one of the holy men of old, who wrote as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. He claimed to have access to special sources of information. Repeatedly he says:—"The Lord spake unto Moses saying." He was with the Lord in the retirements of Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights. "The Lord spake unto Moses face to face as a man speaketh unto his friend." Besides, the Lord Jesus, while incarnate on earth, received the Psalms, the Old Prophets, and the Law—the whole of the Old Testament including even Genesis, not as a mere jumble of grey tradition with some indisputable facts gleaming through it, but as the eternal truth of God—the scriptures which "cannot be broken" but "must be fulfilled."

The action of Cooke's church, Toronto, though ridiculed and represented as absurd, by some who are declared to be the essence of orthodoxy, will nevertheless appear as right, proper and wise, to many Bible readers, who must with sorrow read that those Professors approving of Prof. McFadyen's books are holding similar false views to those found through one glance into each of his two books. Disciples of him who said: "Think not that I am come to destroy the law," act not absurdly, but wisely, in refusing to support or aid one who cuts up, annuls, and destroys that law. Until the Toronto Presbytery do what many think they should have done long ago, the writer is not ashamed of standing with Cooke's church, and sharing any reproach that may be cast upon them for witnessing for the truth, and against error.

The ordinary Bible reader will do well to heed

the sayings:—"From one specimen judge of all the rest; "Absurdum in uno absurdum in omnibus" and turn away from such pernicious books, in order to gain wisdom through walking with the wise—even the wisdom that cometh from above which is first pure then peaceable. Lucknow, Feb. 16, 1904.

British and Foreign Notes.

The White Star liners in future are to carry sea post-offices and postal staff. The mails will be sorted ready for delivery on reaching port.

Erastus Wiman, journalist, author, promoter, and for years one of the most prominent citizens of Staten Island, died on the 9th inst. He was born in Churchville, Ont., in 1834.

The total Roman Catholic population of the British Empire is estimated at about ten millions and a half.

Good rains have fallen in districts in South Africa where there had been almost continuous drought for two years.

It is believed that the life of Mr. Kruger is slowly ebbing away. The doctors do not expect the ex-President to survive till spring.

The strength of the regular forces of Russia may be reckoned at 3,910,000 trained men, while all the effectives at the disposal of the military authorities total 5,320,000.

Great Britain was the first country to issue postage stamps. This was in 1840. Brazil came next, early in 1843, and later in that year Switzerland followed.

Nottingham, a city of 250,000, has owned its street railway for two years, and at the fare of 1d. a mile made a profit of 11 per cent, per annum on the capital invested.

The volcano Merapi, in the Dutch East Indies, is in eruption. Twelve persons have been burned to death, and twenty severely injured.

Dunfermline "Gothenburg" public-house last year made a clear profit of £348, from which grants were made to several "objects of public utility."

The editors of "The Union Magazine," the literary and theological monthly publication of the United Free Church of Scotland, have decided to cease further publication with this month's issue. It is to be regretted that so excellent and useful a magazine has been compelled to cease publication.

The Magistrates of Edinburgh have decided to receive on 23rd March next, deputations in favor of the closing of licensed premises in the city at 10 p. m. from the Edinburgh Presbytery's Temperance Committee of the United Free Church and the Council of the National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants.

In spite of the Anti-Jewish campaign which has been producing tragic results in Russia, the actual number of Jews shows little signs of decrease. The total Jewish population of the Russian capital amounts to 19,229. Of these 4748 are tailors or dealers in ready made clothes; 11,125 are printers or lithographers, 1955 are engaged in the jewellery trade, 380 are doctors, 190 are dentists.

Few people are aware of the extent of Highland literature. But many were the burds who burst forth into song after the "45." The subject is one on which Dr. Magnus Maclean is an authority. He has already published a work entitled "The Literature of the Celts," but he is now at work on a more special undertaking, "The Literature of the Highlands." It will be published by Messrs. Blackie and Son.

Liquor and Tobacco Habits.

A. McTaggart, M. D., C. M.
75 Young Street, Toronto.

References as to Dr. McTaggart's professional standing and personal integrity permitted by:

Sir W. R. Meredith, Chief Justice.
Hon. G. W. Ross, Premier of Ontario.
Rev. John Potts, D. D., Victoria College.
Rev. Wm. Caven, D. D., Knox College.
Rev. Father Teefy, President of St. Michael's College, Toronto.

Right Rev. A. Sweatman, Bishop of Toronto.
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