

## Our Contributors.

### TWO MORE LINKS ABOUT SEVERED.

BY KNOXIAN.

The retirement of Dr. Reid and Dr. Gregg at the meeting of Assembly, from part of their work, reminds us painfully that the links which bind the Canadian Presbyterianism of the present to that of the past are gradually being broken and taken apart. Usually one link at a time is severed and the severance does not attract so much attention. When Dr. Reid and Dr. Gregg retired, though Dr. Reid still remains a clerk of Assembly, and agent of the Church for a year, the Church, and more especially the Western part, feel pretty much as one does when he hears that two of his oldest and best friends are gone.

And still the pain which we all feel should be tempered with gratitude. Dr. Reid has served the Church as an ordained minister for fifty-five years, and Dr. Gregg for forty-eight. Between them they have given the Presbyterianism of Canada one hundred and three years of exceptionally faithful and efficient work. Some men sustain the Church and some are sustained by it. Dr. Reid and Dr. Gregg most manifestly belong to the class who do the sustaining. That kind of work is wearing on the worker. Not one man in a thousand can stand it for half a century. Dr. Reid and Dr. Gregg make more than half a century between them. They owe the Church nothing. The obligation is all the other way. Many times over have they earned their rest and every good thing that can come along with it. The Church should be profoundly thankful for half a century of two such men. Over and above their work the influence of their example has been of the most healthful kind. The amount of good done by their work and their lives can be correctly estimated only by Him who keeps the record above.

It is easy to say that a public man has served for half a century. How many of us realize what that implies in a young country like Canada. In replying to an address at the opening of the Parliament buildings in Toronto, Sir Oliver Mowat astonished some of his friends by reading a list of the things that were not in Ontario when he began to take an interest in public affairs. "There was not at that time," said the veteran Premier, "a mile of gravel road in the Province, nor a mile of railroad"; and on he went through a list that made one wonder whether there was anything in the Province then but Indians, trees and a few early settlers. Sir Oliver Mowat was a boy, or, at most, a young law student, when Dr. Reid began his Canadian life-work in Kingston fifty-five years ago. Sir Oliver was a youthful lawyer just beginning to make himself felt at the Equity Bar when Dr. Reid took charge of the Agency of the Church forty-two years ago. The only public men in Canada that we can think of who began their life work with Dr. Reid, are Sandford Fleming and Chief Justice Hagarty. It is a pleasant coincidence that Dr. Reid, then a young minister from Scotland, and Mr. Fleming met in Peterboro', and became well acquainted at the outset of their Canadian careers, and that Chief Justice Hagarty and Dr. Reid have been near neighbors and intimate friends for nearly half a century. The first time they met was in the Synod in anti-Disruption days. Lawyers were allowed to conduct cases in church courts in these "good old times"—we have sometimes thought it would be an improvement if they were allowed now—and Dr. Reid and the future Chief Justice of Ontario met, the one as a member of Synod sitting as judge, and the other as counsel in a case that attracted some attention at the time.

Dr. Reid saw the Disruption in '44, though we believe we are correct in saying that he was not quite clear at that time—perhaps has never been quite certain—that a disruption was really necessary in Canada.

Twenty years after he saw the church that seceded united with the United Presbyterian, and took a leading part in the negotiations for Union. Ten years later on, he saw nearly all the Presbyterians of the Dominion united in one church. These unions necessarily brought many changes in the official work of the Church, but the most rabid revolutionist never thought of changing Dr. Reid. So thoroughly had he done his work, so strongly was he entrenched in the esteem and confidence of everybody who knew him—and who did not know him—that everybody assumed whatever else was changed Dr. Reid's position would remain as it was.

Some men are trusted because the people don't know them. Dr. Reid is honoured and trusted because the people do know him. For over forty years he has been in closer touch with the western part of the Church than any living man. During these years forty-two classes have finished their studies in Knox College, and it is perhaps safe to say that no student ever left the Hall that Dr. Reid did not personally know. At all events, very few, if any, did. During part of these years he has been in correspondence with the treasurer of every congregation in the West, and with some of them all the time. But the treasurers were not the only men who corresponded with him. Anybody wanting advice on any difficult matter of procedure was almost sure to write to Dr. Reid or Dr. Laing. The Agent of the Church was always willing, his advice was always pacific, and it generally came by the next mail.

More than any other man in the Church Dr. Reid has been brought into contact with the press. Whether the enterprising reporter interviews him much we do not know. The Doctor is not the kind of man that takes kindly to being interviewed. The reporters in the Assembly, however, and he always got on well. We have met old press men in several parts of Canada who used to be on the reporting staff of the Toronto dailies, and they always had a friendly word for Dr. Reid.

Next week we may have something more to say about the venerable Doctor and about Dr. Gregg. We don't believe in letting a good man die before you do him justice.

### FRAGMENTARY NOTES.

BY K.

I left Toronto with the thermometer in the eighties; and reliable people saying that they never remember such heat early in May. Then there was the oft repeated remark among housekeepers which we have been accustomed to for years, about house-cleaning, there were so many in the throes of this old business. But why complain of it; it is an old story which repeats itself every year.

A few years ago this writer was treated to it for about two months; commencing in Western Ontario and finishing in the Eastern part of the Province of Quebec. I cannot say that I sympathized much with the male portion of the families, but I did feel often for the women folks, who were working late and early, to make others comfortable. It was amusing sometimes to hear the chronic grumbling drummer spread himself. Sometimes a colored lady with a pail and mop would cross his path; she would probably be quickly followed by a "Jack of all Trades" who did not dread the frowns of the "commercial," but who, with his usual smile, would say "It will be all right, boss." Such is life.

When I reached Montreal I found that a number of families were beginning to move to their country residences, where they will sojourn for the summer, and return fully recuperated for the fall and winter. Montreal is a great city, and is growing fast, and it is with much pleasure I note that the progress of our Church is keeping sufficient pace with the rapid growth of the city.

The churches are all now supplied with

pastors, and are all well manned. The fact that the Rev. Mr. Macgillivray has resumed his work in Cote St. Antoine is a source of much thankfulness, not only to the large congregation to which he preaches, but to the entire community. The only congregations visited were St. Pauls, and Erskine, both representative churches, and flourishing congregations. Erskine is probably the handsomest church in the Dominion, and on the occasion of my visit was well filled. The pastor, Rev. J. A. Mowat, preached with his old time force and effect.

The Synod of Montreal and Quebec was in Session in Sherbrooke; and all the meetings were profitable and stimulating to the brethren. Much regret was felt at the absence of the Rev. James Fleck, who would probably have been elected Moderator, but who was prevented being present owing to sickness in his family. Mr. Fleck is a man who has opinions, and who is never afraid to express them; and that, too, in language at once eloquent and convincing.

Our cause in Amherst, N. S., continues to prosper. At all diets of worship the Church is taxed to its utmost capacity; and the Sunday School has to be divided between the Sunday School hall proper and the auditorium of the Church. The superintendent is Mr. John McKeen brother of the Rev. Mr. McKeen of Ontario.

The pastor, the Rev. D. MacGregor, is not only popular with his own people but has the respect and esteem of the entire community. He is a faithful expounder of the doctrines of grace; and for sometime has been giving a course of sermons on the old Testament, which have been highly spoken of by all who have had the privilege of hearing them. The latest improvement to the service is the introduction of a pipe organ from Toronto, which for the present completes the praise service of the congregation.

Amherst is among the most progressive and substantial towns in Nova Scotia. There is being erected here at present and approaching completion, one of the finest Baptist Churches in the denomination in the province. The congregation is large and wealthy, and the Church is expected to be opened in July. It is in this neighborhood that the famous Ship Railway was started a few years ago, but which was never yet completed, and in which enterprise some hundreds of thousands of English capital have been sunk. The projectors of the scheme, it is said, are ready to proceed again if they can get a renewal of the subsidy and the time extended from Dominion Government to finish the work. Even when finished the hopes of realizing any dividends must be slight.

Bedford is about ten miles from Halifax by the Intercolonial Railway and is a pleasant watering place. A large number of the business people of Halifax summer here, whilst a number reside permanently. The boating and bathing are very good, and the scenery and pleasure drives are charming. There is a good hotel well run; a neat Presbyterian Church well filled with worshippers. The pastor is the Rev. Mr. Falconer, a graduate of Pine Hill College, Halifax, and a young man of much promise, and just appointed to a professorship by the General Assembly. Although of youthful appearance his sermon gave evidence of a ripeness and maturity which some older ministers might envy. There is a Sunday School, and weekly prayer meeting, the latter largely in the hands, and conducted by, the Christian Endeavor Society, which is much to the credit of this rising body of young Christians.

I attended a prayer meeting once where by actual count there were fifty women, one man and a boy; besides the officiating minister. I may say that this was not in Nova Scotia, so my readers need not attempt guessing as to the congregation with which it is connected.

Halifax is the hub of Nova Scotia, and gives evidence of steady progress, both from a temporal and spiritual standpoint. Busi-

ness is on a firm basis, and many of the establishments have been re-modeled and painted; which give them a fresh and handsome appearance. The only break in the ministerial ranks is about to be filled up. I understand that Rev. J. S. Black has been called to St. Andrew's Church which has been vacant by the removal of Rev. D. M. Gordon, D.D., to Pine Hill College. Mr. Black is the predecessor of Rev. Mr. Jordau, now of St. James Square, Toronto, in Erskine Church, Montreal, and it is rather singular to find him asked to supply the first church which Mr. Jordau held. Mr. Black is a strong man; and will prove a worthy successor to Professor Gordon who has been lately added to the professorial staff of Pine Hill College in this city.

The General Assembly meeting has evoked considerable interest. The appointment of two or three Theological Professors for our colleges is no trifling affair, and we are to compete successfully with sister schools in the United States and the old country, the very best men must be chosen. Private relationships should not weigh in this matter. The Church should demand the best talent available, and the best men be appointed. Delay accordingly, in the circumstances, is felt to be wise. It is to the professors in our colleges whom we are to look for the equipment of the future ministers, to whom, in time, we will look for the teaching of our congregations, and the defending of our Presbyterian faith.

"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

Halifax, N. S.

### THE JEWS IN PALESTINE.

The coming of the Lord draweth nigh, the bridegroom is coming. Are we prepared to meet Him? In reference to the restoration of the Jews to their home-land, what do they feel and think of the restoration? Is the land prepared for the people; and are the people prepared for the land? From a human point of view, until perhaps the last few years, nothing seemed more unlikely than the restoration of the Jews. What seemed more unlikely formerly than that the Israelites should leave Egypt and settle in the promised land? Pharaoh did his best to stop them, and from a human and political point of view, Moses went the wrong way to work when he tried to interfere with the tyranny of Pharaoh. Yet what seemed impossible suddenly became possible. The children of Israel left Egypt.

I am constantly asked, "What do you think of the land? Can it be cultivated? Is it under cultivation now? Could all the people settle in the Holy Land? Is the land fertile?" Some say the land is fertile, as fertile as a garden; others say it is a dreary, howling wilderness. What are we to believe? To a certain extent both statements are true. The land is certainly fertile, and it is also a depressing and howling wilderness. It is most trying to those who visit the Holy Land during the dry season of summer and autumn to travel for many miles without seeing a single tree or even a single shrub or blade of grass. The land is under a curse. A sceptic has exulted over the fact that this was the land which Moses said flowed with milk and honey, and yet it has now for generations been unfruitful. Even Dean Milman, a great historian, seemed to overlook the fact that the prophecies had been fulfilled in the desolation of the land. Dean Milman, in order to disprove this sceptic's statement, made long journeys to prove that the land was fertile. He need not have done so. The fact that the land is under a curse proves the fulfilment of God's prophecies.

But within the last ten years a wonderful change has taken place in Palestine. I remember the time when it was unsafe for any one to go outside the city walls of Jer-

\*Notes of an address by Rev. S. Schor, a native of Jerusalem, taken from the *Christian Herald* of January 15th, 1894.