

The Presbyterian Review.

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Toronto, January 23, 1896.

The Fathers, Where Are They?

ONE after another the pioneers pass away. Men whose lives have been given freely and fully in the Master's service, and in a portion of the vineyard where the labor was arduous and the comforts few are being called away to their long home and the heart of the church is singularly touched. They stood in the breach facing duty in the front line, their part was well acted and they leave behind them a record name that will go down on the scroll of history side by side with those of the Christian heroes of the far past. Their lot was not one of ease, but their work was in many respects a most envious one. Their's to lay the foundation. The honor of being pioneers is a high one, and amid the materialism of the present day a distinction much coveted and sought after, as witness Formosa, Central India, the North West and British Columbia.

Rev Dr. Reid reached the scene of his life work as a young man well-equipped for the part he had to take in Church affairs. He had graduated from King's College Aberdeen with the degree of Master of Arts, of itself a proof of his substantial literary attainments, for then as now the academic honors of the Granite City were the reward of genuine merit. But in addition to his mental endowments he was gifted, in an unusual degree, with the common sense and shrewdness of his race, which gave him a grasp of business rarely possessed by a clergyman. In ecclesiastical affairs he was a veritable master, which with his keen, unerring insight into human nature and his deliberate habit of thought gave him the command of a judgment uncommonly sound. His special qualities of heart and head, and those of heart bulked largely, pointed to him, at an early stage of his career, as a man promising in usefulness and his opportunities for distinguished service came rapidly.

In his first charge at Grafton and Colborne and afterwards at Picton he was held and his memory is still held in the highest esteem and fondly cherished. As Editor of the *Ecclesiastical Record* and Agent of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, then usually called the Free Church, the influence of his work was felt. He continued to occupy a similar position in the Canada Presbyterian Church the name given to the body constituted by the Union, in 1861, of the United Presbyterian and Free Churches. When the General Union of nearly all the Presbyterians in the Dominion was effected in 1875 he was appointed Agent of the Western Section of the United body, which assumed the name of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. At a meeting of the General Assembly of this Church held in Winnipeg, in 1887, testimony was borne, in a manner almost unprecedented, to the character and work of Dr. Reid.

The high regard in which Dr. Reid was held is further shown by the fact that he was elected Moderator of the Supreme Court first, of the Free Church, then of the Canada Presbyterian Church and, lastly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and also by his appointment as Commissioner to the Evangelical Alliance, and to the General Council of the Presbyterian Alliance. The removal of such a deservedly honored Minister and Agent as Dr. Reid has created a blank in our Church which it will be difficult to fill. He will be greatly missed in the Committees Boards and Courts of the Church. He will be missed by the social circles amidst which he moved. Above all he will be missed by the members of his bereaved family, in which he was the wise, loving, tender hearted Christian husband and father; and to whom in their bereavement the whole Church extends its deep heart-felt sympathy.

Home Department of the Sunday School.

We have much pleasure in calling attention to an article in this number on the above subject by Mr. D. Torrance Fraser, of Montreal, who is one of the most enthusiastic and practical Sunday school workers in the Dominion. He has given much attention to this branch of the work and has full confidence in the immense possibilities for good that lie before it. There are some in every community whom the Sunday school, for one reason or another, cannot reach in any other way than through the Home Department, and there are sparsely populated districts where the ordinary Sunday school is altogether impracticable during a large portion of the year. This department is intended to direct and systematize such Bible study as these may be induced to take up in their own homes. Of course the responsibility for the religious instruction of the young in such cases always rests in the end with the parents, but there are many parents who will not do their duty in this matter unless they are stimulated by some organization from without, and there are many more who will welcome the aid which this system is fitted to bring in giving definite shape to their efforts. If parents can be brought by it to co-operate heartily, it will do more for home religion than almost anything else that can be devised. And home religion after all is the best religion. A further article from the same hand will show how the system has been taken up in some quarters in which it has been tried.

The Problem of the Church Funds.

We do not propose to do more than call the attention of the people of our Church to a matter which deserves their very careful consideration. It is the desire doubtless of every contributor to the schemes of the Church that, if possible every dollar he gives should be wholly spent upon the work of that department to which he contributes. Of course every intelligent church member knows that a very small percentage of every dollar he gives is required for the proper and effectual administering of the funds, say two cents out of every hundred. This is a charge which cannot be helped. But we can imagine the astonishment of many good people, when they learn, possibly for the first time, that thousands of dollars have to be paid annually, as interest, upon money borrowed from the banks, in order to meet current expenses. By consulting the last Report of Assembly it will be seen that more than \$2,000 were paid as interest on account of the Home and Foreign Mission funds, over \$200 on account of the Augmentation Fund, more than \$1,500 by the Board of French