

thing better than such an exhibition. And therefore the people of Toronto would not only be acting in their own interests but also in those of the country at large, by presenting a yearly opportunity for such a concourse.

KNOX COLLEGE.

ON Wednesday of this week the annual opening of Knox College took place,—an infallible sign that we are well advanced into the fall. The Rev. Professor McLaren delivered the lecture on the occasion, taking for his subject, "The Inspiration of Scripture." This was handled with the logical force and moral conviction for which the learned Professor is renowned in the Church. Such a lecture is opportune at this moment, seeing how deeply the inspiration of Holy Writ has been wounded in the house of its friends, and how many open assailants are endeavoring to set the Bible aside altogether. We hope to give the lecture the place in these columns which it deserves, when our readers will have an opportunity of judging its merits for themselves. Meanwhile, it gives us pleasure to observe the great and growing interest which is being taken in Knox and the other colleges of the Church. The audience on the occasion of Prof. McLaren's lecture was largely composed of the friends of the students. It is pleasant also to note the goodly array of students who have returned to their studies in robust health. They have our best wishes for a session which will be marked by progress in their studies, by their useful influence in the churches, and by their own personal happiness and welfare.

THE PRE-MILLENNIAL ADVENT.

WE have lately received more than one communication on this subject. One purports to be a reply to the article of our correspondent "L" on Mr. Moody's Adventism. But it travels beyond the record and discusses the doctrinal question on its merits. This, "L" had declined to do, and on that account we could not insert the communication referred to as an answer to him. Other correspondents seem to think that we are sadly in need of information on the subject in question. They endeavor to impress us with the desirability of having it fully discussed in our columns. They wonder why it is that we have so little to say on this matter which appears to them to be all-important; and one of them sends us a bundle of tracts to teach us what to say about it. They also complain that most ministers of the Presbyterian Church in Canada do not in their preaching give this subject the prominence which in their estimation it deserves; and one expresses the opinion that the cause of their reticence is that they "have not given their attention to the subject." On this point we beg to differ from our correspondent. It is not always those who have given most attention to a subject that talk loudest and longest about it. It requires attention to understand a subject intrinsically, but it requires still greater attention to understand it in its relations to other subjects, to weigh its relative importance, and to allow it neither more nor less than its proper share of prominence. Our opinion is that the ministers complained of have given a due share of attention to the doctrine of the second com-

ing of our Lord, and we know that many of them are in the habit of stating their views on the subject when it comes before them in the course of exposition. But, whatever their individual views may be—whether they regard the second coming as pre-millennial or not—they do not allow that doctrine to eclipse the doctrine of the First Coming. They consider that their great work is to preach the gospel for the salvation of sinners, and it is by the first coming, not by the second, that salvation is procured. The second coming—happen when it may—will save no one. Christ *came* to seek and to save the lost. If people are not saved, it matters little to them whether His next coming will be to reign or to judge. If they are saved they will no doubt be much interested in the subject of the second coming, but still there is no reason why those who are in the constant expectation of the advent of Christ in their own day should live more holy lives than those who do not. To adopt the words of the "Christian Guardian," "We never could see how the belief in the near coming of Christ could create any new obligation or motive to duty, not enforced by the belief of the common truths of Christianity. The shortness and uncertainty of life render devout watchfulness and diligence the imperative duty of every follower of Christ." Here we close our remarks on this subject, but without forgetting to state that if any of our correspondents should at any time find something really new to say regarding it—something not contained in any one of the many volumes which have already been written on both sides of the question—we shall then endeavor to make room for their communications.

PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.—A special meeting of this Presbytery, Rev. Dr. Robb, Moderator, was held on the 24th ult., to dispose of the resignation by Rev. R. D. Fraser of his pastoral charge in Charles street Church, Toronto, as tendered by him on the 3rd of September. Rev. A. Gilray reported that he had informed the congregation of the step taken by their pastor, and had cited them to appear, by commissioners, for their interests at this meeting. Papers were then produced and read from the session and congregation aforesaid appointing certain commissioners to appear on their behalf, and setting forth their high appreciation of the faithfulness and devotion of Mr. Fraser in his labours among them, their deep regret and sincere sympathy in regard to the affliction with which he has been visited, and their sense of inability on that account to prevent the acceptance of his resignation. In accordance therewith, Rev. Dr. Reid, Messrs. S. A. Marling, Jas. Campbell, and Jas. Brown were heard for the session, and Mr. Archibald for the congregation. Mr. Fraser was also heard on his own behalf. He expressed his warm regard for both the Session and the congregation, but also stated that, owing to the family circumstances adverted to in his letter, he felt constrained to press the acceptance of his resignation. Various members of the Presbytery spoke feelingly on this matter, and on motion made by Rev. Dr. Topp, seconded by Rev. J. M. King, it was unanimously resolved as follows: "That the Presbytery sincerely regret the cause (viz., the continued illness of his wife and elder child) which has led Mr. Fraser to tender his resignation of his pastoral charge; and having heard commissioners from the Session and congregation who, whilst giving expression in the strongest terms to their feelings of attachment to Mr. Fraser, and to their appreciation of his great diligence and faithfulness and success in his ministry, stated that in the circumstances they do not offer any opposition to the course which he has been compelled to adopt, feel that they cannot, however reluctantly, but accept, as they now do, the resignation before the Presbytery; and accordingly they resolve to dissolve the connection between him and the congregation, and

express the hope that the cause of Mr. Fraser's resignation may by the blessing of God be removed, and that a suitable sphere of future usefulness in the ministry may be opened up to him. The Presbytery also resolve to declare the church vacant on the 20th of October, when the resignation shall take effect. The Presbytery further express their sympathy with the congregation in the circumstances in which they are placed, and also appoint a committee to draw up a minute expressive of their regard for Mr. Fraser as a minister and a member of the Presbytery." A small committee was then appointed, and Prof. McLaren was appointed to declare the church vacant, and Rev. Dr. Gregg to act as interim Moderator of the Session during the vacancy. An application was read from the congregation of Sutton for the appointment of one to moderate in a call; and Rev. J. Carmichael, of King, was appointed for that purpose, the time to be fixed by him and the Session concerned. The next meeting of Presbytery was appointed to be held on the first Tuesday of November, at 11 a.m.—R. MONTEATH, *Pres. Clerk*.

PRESBYTERY OF PARIS.—The regular quarterly meeting of this Presbytery was held in Zion Church, Brantford, on the 18th inst. Mr. Thomson, of Ayr, was elected moderator for the ensuing twelve months. Dr. Cochrane's resignation of the clerkship, which had lain on the table since last meeting, was accepted, a very cordial vote of thanks was given him for the diligence and marked efficiency with which he had discharged the duties of the office for so many years, and Mr. McMullen was chosen his successor as Clerk of Presbytery. Application was made by Mr. Lowry on behalf of Dr. Kemp, for a certificate of his standing as a minister without charge, which was granted. The Committee on Sabbath Schools gave in their report, which was read by Mr. McEwen, Convener. Ministers were enjoined to bring the subject of Sabbath School work before their congregations, either personally or by an exchange of pulpits, directing special attention to the following points:—1. The inalienable responsibility resting on parents to attend to the religious instruction of their families, and of practically co-operating with the Church in this matter. 2. The responsibility lying on the membership of the Church, conscientiously and devotedly to give themselves to the work of teaching in the Sabbath School, and of using every means within their reach, in classes for training, and teachers' meetings, for the study of the lesson from week to week; and thus fit themselves for the greatest possible usefulness in this part of Church work. 3. The importance of our youth being well instructed in definite doctrinal truth, as set forth in our Catechism and Confession of Faith. It was agreed to hold an annual Sabbath School Conference arranged for and superintended by a committee to be appointed by the Presbytery, and that said committee have charge of preparing the Presbytery's report on Sabbath Schools to the Synod. Ministers were recommended to use their influence as much as possible to secure the reading of the Bible in our public schools. The committee appointed to visit St. Andrew's Church, East Oxford, and associated stations, gave in their report, which was read by Mr. Root, Convener. Reference having been made in the report, to the St. Andrew's Church property in Woodstock, a committee was appointed to meet with the congregation of Knox Church and the congregation of Chalmers' Church, Woodstock, and with the congregation of St. Andrew's Church, East Oxford, with the view of adjusting all difficulties regarding the property in question, and of bringing about an amicable arrangement satisfactory to all parties concerned, and with as little delay as possible. The members of said committee are: Dr. Cochrane, Rev. Mr. Robertson, of Chesterfield, Rev. Mr. McLeod, of Paris, and Messrs. Root and Stewart, of Ingersoll, elders, Mr. Root, Convener. Application on behalf of the Glen Morris congregation for a moderation in a call to a minister, having been made, the Rev. D. D. McLeod was appointed to attend to that matter. The next regular meeting of the Presbytery is to be held in Chalmers' Church, Woodstock, on the third Tuesday of December, at half-past 11 o'clock a.m.—W. T. MCMULLEN *Pres. Clerk*.

BELIEVE me, the providence of God has established such an order in the world, that of all which belongs to us, the least valuable parts can alone fall under the will of others. Whatever is best is safest, lies most out of the reach of human power, can neither be given nor taking away.—*Bolingbroke*.