

PRINCIPAL MacVICAR.

The Life of Principal MacVicar, by his son, John H. MacVicar, B.A., of Fergus, has just been reviewed in the columns of the London Presbyterian. As presenting an outside view of a Canadian book, as well as a Canadian subject, we make room for our English contemporary's estimate of this interesting biography:

Dr. MacVicar, as a boy, was brought to Canada by his parents in 1835, the family being old-established in Argyllshire. It is interesting to learn that another family crossing the Atlantic in the same ship was the Arnors, who have since become famous from Chicago to the ends of the world for their extract of beef. After a distinguished career at Knox College, Toronto, and in various pastorates, including one at Guelph, Ontario, the Rev. Donald Harvey MacVicar became Professor of Divinity in the newly established Presbyterian College of Montreal. This was in the year 1864. Before his appointment to the board in their persistent search for a permanent professor had approached among others, the Revs. A. B. Bruce, then of Broughty Ferry, and afterwards the distinguished Professor in Edinburgh, and Marcus Dods, who was then a Free Church minister in Glasgow. Another well-known Presbyterian on this side of the Atlantic, connected with the early history of the Montreal Theological College, is Dr. Monro Gibson, of St. John's Wood, London, who was then winning his spurs as assistant pastor of Erskine Church, Montreal. He delivered during seven sessions lectures on Greek and Hebrew Exegesis. Professor MacVicar became principal in 1873.

In this biography of his father, Mr. MacVicar has given a sympathetic and impartial account of a man to whom not only Canadian Presbyterians, but the whole Church of Canada, owes a great debt. We are shown very clearly MacVicar, the Ecclesiastic as well as the moulder of young preachers. His family life is beautifully yet reverently indicated, and we can imagine the genial principal singing with great gusto the old Scottish songs, of which "Joek o' Hazeldene," and "When the Kye comes Hame," were his prime favorites. He had an intimate knowledge of English educational affairs and on various trips to Europe the Principal studied our religious and educational life and held strong views of his own on what he saw and heard. In Canada Dr. MacVicar held the post of Secretary of the Protestant Educational Association, with "almost vehement energy," we are told. His public work was spirited and thorough, while his devoted advocacy of Apologetics in the pulpit indicated his theological views. His end was most dramatic. One day in the December of 1902, he was to lecture before the students on Pedagogics. The class assembled, but no professor appeared. Time wore on and still he seemed to tarry. Some members of the class were deputed to proceed to his office and enquire if any lecture was contemplated. They knocked. No answer being forthcoming, they timidly opened the door, and discovered their beloved Principal dead, and spread out before him the notes of his lecture.

The book is a model biography. There is no useless detail, no extravagant eulogy, although the writer is describing the life of a beloved father, no vulgar and cheap gossip. Dignified in public and private life and devoted to duty was Principal MacVicar, and his full and useful life is faithfully portrayed in the pages before us. Special notice must be made of the capital get-up of the book. It is quite a family production, for one of the Principal's sons is the author, and another, Robert M. MacVicar, B. A., of Montreal, is responsible for the designing of the handsome cover and the initial chapter letters, which take the form of tasteful and appropriate sketches of scenes and incidents of the Principal's life.

Forgiveness does not make it easier to sin again; it puts a new sense of obligation and self-respect into the forgiven heart.

WINNIPEG W. F. M. S. PRESBYTERIAL.

The Winnipeg Presbyterial of the W. F. M. S. convened in Knox Church at 10 a.m. There was an unusually large attendance with almost every outside auxiliary represented. The president, Mrs. McKay, presided, and with her on the platform were the other officers of the executive. The opening devotional exercises were conducted by Miss Rodgers, Mrs. McVicar and Miss Fleming. Reports were received from the different auxiliaries and were very bright and encouraging, particularly those from the country auxiliaries.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: Hon. President, Miss Bruce; president, Mrs. A. D. McKay; 1st vice-president, Mrs. Dr. Bryce; 2nd vice-president, Mrs. Matheson, of Stonewall; 4th vice-president, Mrs. Forrester, of Emerson; recording secretary, Mrs. Matheson; corresponding secretary, Mrs. (Rev.) C. W. Gordon; literary secretary, Miss Annie Hogg; Mission Band superintendent, Mrs. F. W. Clark.

At the afternoon session, after devotional exercises, the secretary's annual report was read.

Mrs. Hart presented the treasurer's report. These reports were approved. Mrs. Brown led in the dedicatory prayer.

Mrs. Chestnut, of Newbridge, gave a most interesting talk on mission band work, showing a thoroughly practical knowledge of the work, which was listened to with the closest attention. Mrs. Counsell contributed in no small degree to the pleasure of the meeting by her beautiful solo "The Lord Remembers His Children." Mrs. MacClelland of Winnipeg, then thrilled every one by her earnest appeal for more consideration in this work of missions. Greetings were read from sister societies.

President Mrs. McKay then gave a short, earnest address, emphasizing our shortcomings during the past year and yet speaking in encouraging terms of the progress along the line of missions.

The committee on resolutions placed on record their deep loss in the death of Rev. Dr. Warden, who had so long been their foreign mission secretary. Resolutions of sympathy were passed to those auxiliaries who had lost members by death during the year and also to those who through illness had been laid aside for a time.

A very unanimous vote of thanks was given to Mrs. D. R. Watson, for her untiring efforts as literature secretary during the past five years.

At the close of this meeting tea was served in the lecture room, where the ladies were joined by the members of the synod.

The evening meeting was an enthusiastic public gathering with the moderator of the Winnipeg Presbyterial, Dr. Wilson, in the chair.

After devotional exercises the annual report was again presented, followed by greetings from the synod, presented by Rev. Mr. Bennett, of Morris.

Rev. Clarence Mackinnon gave the address of the evening, which was listened to with rapt attention.

The subscriptions from the various auxiliaries received were as follows: Clear-springs, \$6.40; Emerson, \$57.00; Kenora, \$94.50; Kildonan, \$15.00; Miami, \$27.00; Plympton, \$25.00; Stonewall, \$61.00; Winnipeg—Augustine, \$79.55; Point Douglas, \$35.90; Knox, \$335.00; St. Andrew's, \$211.00; St. Gile's, \$27.85; St. Paul's, \$120.61; St. Stephen's, \$235.24; Westminster, \$276.35. Total, \$1,607.40.

Mission Bands—Kenora, \$10.50; Moose Mountain, \$25.00; Newbridge, \$8.70; St. Stephen's, \$17.60; Westminster, \$35.30. Total, \$97.10. Interest, \$2.68. Amount to be sent to general secretary, \$1,707.18.

Dr. John Watson writes: "If there be a bigotry of orthodoxy which in the past has been intolerant, there is also a bigotry of heterodoxy which in the present is most insolent." True, and bigotry is always bad and to be guarded against.

THE STUDENT VOLUNTEER CONVENTION.

The fifth international convention of the Student Volunteer Movement that met in Nashville, February 28 to March 4, says the Presbyterian Banner, was one of the great meetings of the year. The statistics of the meeting are impressive. The total attendance was reported to be, students 3,000, professors 286, representing 700 institutions of higher learning in the United States and Canada; 144 foreign missionaries from 26 foreign countries; 149 official representatives of about 85 mission boards and societies; 8 fraternal delegates, 44 representatives of the press, and 397 special representatives from the Y. M. C. A. and kindred organizations, making a grand total of 4,188. Yet these figures cannot catch and convey the wonderful spirit and power of the convention, its soul-stirring addresses, and its marvelous devotion to the mighty cause of evangelizing the world. The organization and management of the convention were perfect. There was a notable absence of fuss and flurry. The convention started right off without wasting any time in addresses of welcome and response, and the speakers were introduced with a simple statement of who they were. Those two mighty young men of Presbyterianism and Methodism, Robert E. Speer and John R. Mott, were masters of the convention. Of the 2,500 volunteers who expect to sail for mission fields this year more than 100 were on the platform. The convention was the great missionary heart of the Protestant Church in the United States and Canada, and has sent pulses of missionary faith and enthusiasm and power out to the ends of the earth.

The British Medical Journal strongly condemns the enactment submitted in Iowa and Ohio to permit the lawful termination of lives condemned to incurable suffering. "The proposal of ending," it says, "by what it euphemistically called euthanasia, the sufferings which cannot be mended, is by no means novel. Every now and again it is put forward either by literary dilettanti who discuss it as an academic subtlety, or by neurotic intellectuals whose high-strung temperament cannot bear the thought of pain. The medical profession has always sternly set its face against a measure that would inevitably pave the way to the grossest abuse, and would degrade them to the position of executioners. This must be the answer of the whole medical profession to a most mischievous proposal, which is the outcome of a degeneracy, mental and physical, that is a by-product of a high civilization." Four or five weeks ago the Dominion Presbyterian had an article condemning the proposed enactment.

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for Post Office, Alexandria, Ont.," will be received at this office until Friday, April 6, 1906, inclusively, for the work above mentioned, according to plans and specification to be sent on application to the Postmaster, Alexandria, Ont., and at the Department of Public Works, Ottawa.

Tenders will not be considered unless made on the printed form supplied, and signed with the actual signatures of tenderers.

An accepted cheque on a chartered bank, payable to the order of the Honorable the Minister of Public Works, equal to ten per cent (10 p.c.) of the amount of the tender, must accompany each tender. The cheque will be forfeited if the party tendering decline the contract or fail to complete the work contracted for, and will be returned in case of non-acceptance of tender.

The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order,

FRED. GELINAS,

Secretary.

Department of Public Works,
Ottawa, March 27, 1906.

Newspapers inserting this advertisement without authority of the Department, will not be paid for it.