

thing like a full report, merely a few lines, noticing what is going on. This is not because we are Baptists, or Non-conformists. It is typical of English, or at least London, journalism, which does not consider religious news worth printing. Perhaps before we are through we may succeed in making our presence felt to some extent, even in London.

Let me introduce first of all some of the men who are the leaders in the Congress. Standing foremost in the love and admiration of Baptists the world over, and in the esteem of all who honor unswerving allegiance to truth allied with conspicuous ability, is Alexander McLaren, D. D., President of the Congress, the acknowledged prince of expository preachers. As he took the chair on Wednesday morning a storm of applause burst over the wide expanse of Exeter Hall. Those who know him say that his marvellous vitality has perceptibly weakened. Yet there were few of the speakers at the Congress who could make themselves more plainly heard in all parts of the room, and none with less apparent effort. Still by the close of the session the slight trembling of the hand as it held the program betrayed the weariness of the flesh, which the strong will was not able entirely to subdue. That session was the last at which he presided, as he was compelled to return to Manchester to present on behalf of the Nonconformists an address to the King. Today, however, he had returned to London, and met all the delegates at a reception and garden party given in his honor at Regent Park College. He received us seated, but even after the hundreds who had passed before my turn came the hearty hand grasp with which he welcomed us all betrayed no weakness or weariness.

While Dr. McLaren is "facile princeps" among the world wide Baptist hosts, it might be a mistake to say that today he holds first place among English Baptists. That place must probably be assigned to Dr. Clifford, the famous leader of Nonconformity in its struggle against the Education Act. He is one of the Vice-Presidents of the Congress, and it was days before even his appearance ceased to be greeted with tumultuous cheering. He is a little old man with a long, gray beard, but his fighting weight might test the capacity of the strongest scales.

Among English Baptists and more especially among Welsh Baptists an outstanding figure is that of David Lloyd-George, M. P., familiarly known as Lloyd-George. He is the forefront of the organized opposition to the Education Act in Wales. Should the Liberals prove victorious in the next election campaign Lloyd-George will without doubt be a member of the Cabinet. He also is a Vice-President of the Congress and presided at one session.

In the account of the Baptist notables we must not omit Rev. E. B. Meyer, so well known on both sides of the Atlantic, though not so well known as a Baptist. Yet he is one now at least, and has been elected as Vice-President of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, an office which carries with it the succession to the President's chair. When called upon to address the Congress, his first appearance before a Baptist audience after his election, he humorously remarked that the prodigal son always came in for the fatted calf.

It would be impossible to name all the prominent men who have part in the Congress. But mention should be made of Rev. J. H. Shakespeare, the Secretary of the gathering, who has had the burden of organization upon his shoulders, and who has done perhaps more than any other one man to make the Congress a success. Nor should we omit Dr. Prestidge, of Louisville, Ky., in whose fertile brain the idea of a World's Baptist Congress first took definite form. It is impossible of course to enumerate all the prominent Americans present. They are here in swarms, and all are prominent. Among the rest are some seventy or eighty colored brethren. These have been quite lionized, and have shown themselves not unworthy of the attention they have received. While no important places have been assigned them on the program they have been warmly welcomed whenever they have appeared on the platform, and in respect to oratory have well nigh carried off the palm.

Canada has sent a fair contingent though I regret to say that the Maritime Provinces are most inadequately represented. Besides the writer, there are Rev. J. H. Jenner, of Halifax, Rev. W. J. Rutledge, of Port Maitland, and Rev. Dr. McLeod of Fredericton, the latter representing more particularly the Free Baptists, but claimed by us as one of our Maritime representatives. Two of the most important places on the program have been given to Canadians, and one of the men we claim as a Maritime man, even though he happens at present to be preaching in Toronto. The real business of the Congress was opened on Wednesday morning by an address by Rev. J. D. Freeman on "The Place of Baptists in the Christian Church." The last speaker at the great closing demonstration at Albert Hall next Tuesday evening will be Rev. John J. MacNeill of Winnipeg.

A striking feature of the Congress thus far has been the abounding enthusiasm displayed. To one who had been taught to believe that the average Englishman is rather stolid and unresponsive it is a revelation. No doubt the presence of a strong contingent of enthusiastic Welshmen may account for some of it. However, it may be, it is of common occurrence that even the most vigorous of clapping

with the hands affords a totally inadequate outlet for the pent-up enthusiasm. Rising to their feet the delegates will wave handkerchiefs, programs, hats, whatever may be in their hands and give expression to their appreciation in hearty vocal cheering.

For some of us the Congress opened with a luncheon given to the colonial delegates by the South African Missionary and Colonial Aid Society. We had a very good dinner, and then speeches were made by our hosts and by representatives from the different colonies, who said pleasant things about us all and each other. The upshot of the matter was the formation of a Colonial Missionary Society, which, while not promising very much financial assistance would kindly entreat that any special appeals for aid be made under its auspices and its direction. Just how much this newest of Baptist societies will amount to depends a great deal upon the attitude of the Baptist Union of Great Britain.

Tuesday evening the Congress proper opened in Exeter Hall. As the number of delegates exceeded the seating capacity of the room the public were not invited, and delegates were admitted only on presentation of their tickets. By the time for opening more than three thousand were crowded into the Hall. The delegates were formally welcomed by His Honor, Judge Willis, President of the Baptist Union, of Great Britain. To this welcome responses were made by delegates from the various countries represented. The meeting began at 5 p. m., and it was nearly nine before the benediction was pronounced. To speak frankly it was tiresome. In the first place the acoustic properties of Exeter Hall are horribly bad. Then many of the speakers had but slight acquaintances with English, and not many even of the English speaking delegates could be heard easily in all parts of the room.

On Wednesday morning we had what is acknowledged on all hands to be one of the best things of the Congress, the address by Rev. J. D. Freeman. Any adequate report of this is impossible. Those who have heard this gifted preacher at his best will have some idea of the treat which we enjoyed. The fundamental Baptist principle he declared to be the doctrine of the supreme and undelimited authority and sovereignty of Jesus Christ. From this he showed with rare skill how all the other principles for which Baptists have ever stood are logically derived. After a little discussion on this subject the Congress received a delegation from the National Free Church Council, with a speech on their behalf by Rev. Dr. Horton.

In the afternoon we had a meeting on National Primary Education, which really developed into a discussion of the British Education Act. Dr. Whittitt of Virginia read an able paper on the subject, but this was little appreciated in comparison with the addresses by Lloyd-George and Dr. Clifford, who confined their remarks to the condition of affairs in England and Wales. Later in the afternoon we paid a pleasant visit to the Spurgeon Orphanage when we were served with music and tea, and then departed for the Metropolitan Tabernacle, where the evening service was held.

This service was the Congress sermon, and the preacher was Rev. A. H. Strong, D. D., President of Rochester Theological Seminary. His subject was "The Greatness and the Claims of Christ," his text being two phrases from Paul's account of his conversion, "Who art thou, Lord," and "What shall I do Lord?" The sermon can truly be described as a great effort—both for the preacher and the congregation. Some say that he preached for an hour and forty-five minutes, but one who timed him said that it was only one hour and thirty-three minutes. Prospective students for Rochester Seminary will do well to make note of this for use when he is criticized, as he probably will be at the Seminary, for preaching at too great length. But it must be confessed that this sermon had more excuse for length than is usually the case. Any report of the sermon is of course out of the question.

The rest of the good things we have been enjoying must wait until next week, for my space is already exceeded.

R. J. Colpitts.

London, July 15.

The Rev. James Loring Read

passed to his reward from his home in Aylesford, on Sunday the 23rd of July. He was a son of Eliphalet and Rebecca Read of Sackville, N. B., was born Dec. 21st, 1828. He was one of eleven children, the Rev. Eliphalet Outhouse Read being one of them. His father was a typical deacon of that day. What a shock it would have given the members of the Sackville Church, had any one proposed to turn Deacon Read back into common membership on the rotary wheel of the three year's term prevailing in some churches of today. The surprise would have been but a little less than a similar suggestion to revolve out of office Father Crandall, Manning or Harding, at the end of a fixed term of service. Who can give a picture of that large farm, that home, those eleven children, looking up to Eliphalet and Rebecca Read their parents. That home, one of the Saints' rests for ministers of that day. On entering this house for the first time Theodore Harding clasped the hand of the Saintly Rebecca and enquired how many chil-

dren have you sister? On receiving the reply, eleven, the patriarch said, "let us pray." This took place in the hall, before the good man had entered the parlors. That picture can be hung up on the wall Father Harding, Deacon Read and his good wife, kneeling and praying for those eleven children. Out of such homes came the good men and good women of the new passing generation. These provinces have enjoyed the successful ministerial service of two of the sons.

For five years the late Rev. W. G. Parker was pastor of the Sackville Church. Among the many baptized by him was J. L. Read, when he was about twenty years old. Shortly after his baptism, yielding to the divine call, he decided to preach the gospel. With this object in view, he began a course of study at Sackville Academy. After two years, he went to Prince Edward Island, and for two more years preached at Tryon, St. Peter's Road, North River and other places. There he met the Rev. William Hobbs, from whom he received much help and instruction in the practical work of the Christian ministry.

From P. E. Island he went to Fredericton Academy, where for two years he studied under Dr. Spurgeon, continuing to preach in the surrounding churches.

In the spring of 1858 he was ordained at Hopewell, N. B. In November of the same year, having accepted a call from Upper Aylesford Church, he began his pastoral labors, which, without interruption, continued for thirty-one years.

This was the same autumn that the writer became pastor of the church centred at Berwick. I saw there Brother Read for the first time. From that day until now our friendship has been continuous and sweet.

This first year was a memorable one in our ministry. The revival that came down upon this part of the country seemed like a wave of the revival in New York during that and the previous years. "It broke out" in Berwick by a little girl, ten years old, rising in prayer meeting, and, for the first time in her life, opened her mouth for Christ. It was the voice of the turtle dove heralding the spring. Over one hundred passed through baptism into the church in the Berwick region. "The revival broke out," differently in Aylesford. At the close of a Sunday evening service Brother Read heard a noise at the entrance to the church, which he took to be the pranks of a few rude boys, but on reaching the door he found it came from young men waiting for their guilt. About seventy were baptized during this awakening. The hearts of the people warmed toward their pastor at this beginning of a long and most successful pastorate, and held to him in loving sympathy until they laid him away to rest on the 25th of this month. All through his long pastorate there were frequent revivals, and the church prospered under his ministry.

His first wife was Elizabeth Morton, daughter of Deacon Whitman Morton, of Wilmot, who still lives and is over ninety years of age. Mr. Read's first wife died about 1888.

After resigning at Aylesford, at the close of his long pastorate, he became pastor of the church at Clementsport, for two years. His next charge was at Osbourne. Following this he was for a time at New Germany. He then returned to Aylesford where he remained until his departure to the highest service. After coming back to Aylesford, he acted until about two years ago as pastor at Burlington.

The funeral services were held on Tuesday the 25th. The Rev. D. H. Simpson, preached an appropriate and very sympathetic sermon from the text, "I have fought the good fight." The funeral was largely attended. The Rev. C. K. Morse, the Rev. Alfred Chipman, the Rev. P. R. Foster, the pastor, Rev. Lewis Wallace, the Rev. Isaiah Wallace, D. D., the Rev. Mr. Cahler of Chester, the Rev. Messrs. Craig and Ryan, Methodist ministers were present. The solemn assembly was addressed by all these ministers except Dr. Wallace, whose impaired health did not permit him to share in the exercises. All paid kindly tributes to the departed servant of God.

Brother Read leaves a widow to mourn his loss. She was Miss Annie Bishop of Wolfville. Both wives were of the most excellent of the earth, true, kind and faithful. One son, Loring Allen Read, who lives at Aylesford, son of the first wife, survives. The other son died suddenly in Boston a few years ago. Rev. J. L. Read was a brother of moderate talents, a most sympathetic, kind and tactful pastor, was unobtrusive and faithful in all relations of life. He wrought a good work. The writer extends hearty sympathy to his bereaved wife, son, brother, and other relatives.

F. E. M. Saunders.

The Toronto "Globe" says:—"The present worth of the life annuities voted to Cabinet Ministers is \$340,000. This, with the annuities to the two Ministers about to retire, will bring the total up to \$377,000. This total is obtained by calculations made in accordance with the life insurance tables on a basis of four per cent. The smallest present worth is that of Sir Charles Tupper's annuity of \$4,000, which at the age of 84 years is \$12,148. Hon. Mr. Sifton's annuity of \$3,500 at 44 years of age is worth \$50,168, the highest present worth."