

ALEXANDER KENNEDY.

[We gladly make room for the following brief tribute to the memory and worth of the late Rev. Alexander Kennedy, for many years the greatly beloved minister of Dunbarton, Ontario, contributed by Margaret Johnston Merrill, a Canadian, now resident in Asheville, North Carolina.]

One of our greatest writers has said "Evil often stops short of itself and dies with the doer of it, but good never dies."

Those of us who were privileged to know Rev. Alexander Kennedy will at once feel the application of these words in his case. In the hearts of those to whom he ministered there yet remains an appreciation of him which time can never lessen.

He was born at Dalrickie Mill, Ayrshire, Scotland, May 12, 1804. Upon his ordination in 1835, he went immediately to Trinidad as a missionary, spending about fourteen years there; afterward removing to Canada where he received four calls. He accepted one which probably involved more labor than any of the others, and held fewer attractions for an ambitious man. This charge was in Pickering township, Ontario County, Ontario. It included two district churches and congregations, one at Dunbarton and one at Pickering village, or, as it was then called Duffin's Creek.

By his natural ability and extensive scholarship he was eminently qualified to undertake a charge in a large city; but he realized the greater need of the country people, and ministered to them until old age and a failing health compelled him to retire.

After his wife's death he resided in Welland, Ontario, with his nephew, T.D. Cowper, at whose home he died in January, 1892.

He was a man of vast intellectual power, original and unique. While essentially one of the most loyal of Presbyterians, he held out a friendly helping hand to other struggling denominations. His heart was large enough to enfold all grades and conditions of humanity.

Perhaps the strongest point of his ministry consisted in his ability to thoroughly interest so many persons, old and young, in his Bible classes. Conducting these classes as he did, involved an amount of work, the very contemplation of which would have made a less energetic man shudder. In addition to an exhaustive exposition of the lessons he required his pupils to write essays upon religious or current topics. These he corrected and upon the blank page wrote whatever criticism or commendation the articles merited. Many received from him their first encouragement in the line of literature.

Had he chosen a larger field of work, doubtless he would have been the most widely known of the Presbyterian clergy of Canada. As it is he holds a place in the hearts of his former pupils which, probably, no other holds who has been so long removed from earth. His home relations were ideal, and his pastoral life was a literal fulfilling of Christ's law of love. For such as he there is no death. Even in this world he lives on in the memory of those to whom he imparted instruction.

His pupils are scattered over many parts of the United States as well as Canada. Wherever they meet they speak of him with the same reverential love as of old. Truly these, his many children, rise up and call him blessed.

The holiday cards and calendars of Messrs. E. P. Dutton & Co., of New York, are original in design, beautiful in execution, and at prices to suit all classes of buyers.

THE NEW ERSKINE CHURCH.

The building presents a most attractive appearance, says the Citizen. The material used in its construction was native limestone and the trimmings were of white Indiana limestone. The treatment as regards its architectural style was Gothic in its character and the effect produced is very pleasing to the eye. The building is seventy feet in length and fifty in width, outside measurement. Entrances have been placed on the east and west ends and from these entrances stairs lead to the basement and the gallery as well as to the body of the church. The gallery, which is circular in shape and which extends around three sides of the building, will accommodate 225 people, and the body of the church or ground floor, 425, making a total seating accommodation of 650. The woodwork of the interior is finished in heliotrope and the ceilings and walls have what is technically known as a sand finish. The nature of the finish and the numerous large windows make the church bright. Dull colors have been tabooed and the building committee has planned successfully to have the church well lighted and cheerful in appearance. A beautiful stained glass window was placed in the west end of the church. It was given by Mrs. Robertson, 190 Concession street, in memory of her husband, the late Wm. Robertson, who died on Aug. 14, 1900. The figure represented is that of Moses.

The cost of the church, according to the contractor's estimates, was \$9,000, but this did not include the expense of providing seats, lighting, etc., which will bring the total cost up to \$10,000 at least. The Sunday school has undertaken to raise \$500 to go towards the cost of the lighting. The Ladies' Aid will furnish the vestry and pay for the matting for the aisles and for the carpet for the choir-loft and pulpit. The congregation expects that it will pay off all but \$3,000 or \$4,000 within the course of two or three years.

The energetic building committee, to which the arrangements for the erection of the church were entrusted and which has performed its responsible duties so satisfactorily, is composed of George Rochester, Archibald Andrew, George Dagleish, sr., James Baxter, John Stewart, E. F. Drake and Alexander Younger.

Not a little of the credit for the remarkable upbuilding of the congregation of this church should be given to Rev. A. E. Mitchell, the popular pastor. Since he came to Ottawa he has devoted his time and energy to the work laid upon him, and the result of his labors has been made manifest in the growth of the congregation and in the building of the church. Rev. Mr. Mitchell is deservedly beloved by his people for he has shown in no unmistakable manner how close their interests lie to his heart.

MARIETTA, A MAID OF VENICE, by Marion Crawford. This very pretty story is purely romantic, the scene being laid in Italy in the fifteenth century. The heroine is the daughter of a glass-maker, and the story, which is simple in plot, tells of her love for her father's apprentice. Marietta is intended to marry one of the nobility, as "the council had declared that patricians of Venice might marry the daughters of glass workers without affecting their own rank or that of their children." The story is well told and ends happily, and will therefore prove an excellent holiday book. The Copp Clark Company, Toronto.

Literary Notes.

ARNOLD'S PRACTICAL SABBATH-SCHOOL COMMENTARY on the International Lessons. Fifty cents. Toronto, Fleming Revell Company. This is a useful, comprehensive commentary, with hints to teachers, illustrations, blackboard exercises, questions, maps and class registers. The editor has done her work well, and the publishers have produced a very helpful book at a small price.

THE DIVINE PURSUIT, by John Edgar McFadyen, B.A., Toronto: Fleming, Revell Company, \$1.00 net. This little volume will find many readers, made up as it is of a series of short meditations or "devotional studies" fitted to "minister to the deeper life of those whom they may reach." The publishers have given the beautiful thoughts of the author a fine setting; and the book will make an attractive holiday gift.

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE for December presents a large list of excellent articles. Canadian readers will find the following full of interest: "Byron, 1816-1824," by G. S. Street; "Camping on Lake Winnipeg," by C. Hanbury Williams; and "La Hung Chang," by Alex. Michie. There are several chapters of "The Westcoast," a continued serial, by A. T. Quiller-Couch, Poetry and "Musings without Method"—all making a most readable number of this favorite periodical.—Leonard Scott Publication Co., New York.

CIRCUMSTANCE, by S. Weir Mitchell. Dr. Mitchell's new book is very similar to "Dr. North and His Friends," having the same charm of style, but with decidedly more of a plot. It is not, however, a book that tempts one to read quickly for the sake of the story. The chief charm is in the conversations, which though at times almost too intellectual to be true to life are very full of interest. "On a hilltop of an island endeared to me by many memories, the ocean wind has permanently bent pine, fir and spruce. Here and there a single tree remains upright,—staunchly refusing to record the effect of circumstance on character." This is Dr. Mitchell's text. The characters all live and move, and some of them are very delightful to meet. Of these are the sisters Margaret Swanwick and Mary Fairthorne, and also the sisters, the Misses Markham, who are the most charming of old fashioned maiden ladies; while even the adventuress, Mrs. Hunter, has the redeeming feature of almost mother love for her worthless half brother. This is a book distinctly worth reading. The Copp Clark Company, Toronto.

The prohibition question is being tossed back and forth between the political parties, and each handles it as if it were an exceedingly hot ball just off the bat. The question is one that has come within the range of practical politics, and must be dealt with in some adequate way. It has cropped up at a most unfortunate time. The general elections are not far off, and this will undoubtedly be one of the bones of contention between the parties. It will, we fear, be thrown into the slough of party politics, and may become the issue upon which the fate of the Government shall hang. Prohibition will never be settled in that way. A law, prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquor may be placed on the Statute book, but it will never be enforced till this great moral question is lifted out of the range of the party politician, and treated in a statesmanlike manner.