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OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, MAR. 20, 1907.

Many of our readers, we are sure, will peruse with pleasure the article from that excellent paper the Belfast Witness, reproduced in another column, on "Progress in Theology."

General Booth is reported to have said recently that forty years ago he was recommended by a London West End physician to live in a small parish where there was plenty of good shooting. Instead, although in his seventy-eighth year, his parish, he said, was now the wide world. As to shooting, he had been trying to shoot the devil in his most hideous forms ever since.

Last week we made mention of the appeal to Ottawa Presbyterians from Rev. W. Graham, of Kingston, Jamaica, whose church, during the recent earthquake, was damaged to the extent of \$20,000, and now the Anglicans, through the Archbishop of the West Indies, is making a similar appeal through the columns of the New York Herald, to the Protestant Episcopal dioceses of New York and Washington.

THE LIVING AGE for March 9 opens with a conservative and admirably written article on "Women and Politics." The writer, Caroline E. Stephen, is not at all in sympathy with the "suffragists" and she presents forcibly the considerations which lead many women to shrink from the burdens and responsibilities of the ballot. The article is reprinted from The Nineteenth Century.

Under M. Clemenceau a prospect appears of some modus vivendi between the French Government and the Vatican. If some accommodation is possible without weakening the Government, or leading up to the old political power of the Church, every Protestant would rejoice. Because, argues the Belfast Witness, if matters are rushed, and popular sympathy for Roman Catholicism created, there might be a reaction injurious to civil liberty, and hurtful to true religion.

### TRUSTING THE BOERS.

But a year or two ago General Botha was in arms against Great Britain in South Africa. To-day he is Premier of the Transvaal, and is to attend the Colonial Conference in England next month! There was very little doubt that under the constitution recently promulgated for the Transvaal the Dutch element would control the political situation, and the British ministry has been subjected to much bitter criticism for its "surrender." But unless present indications are misleading, the ministry is wiser and broader-visioned than its critics. It would have been an everlasting disgrace to England had she treated the brave Boers as a subject race, and it is to her everlasting honor that on the contrary she has entrusted them with full privileges of citizenship. The elections have been held, and the Het Volk, combining the Dutch and their sympathizers, has been triumphant. Het Volk's platform is racial reconciliation and union of all the white inhabitants into a South African nation; and if the party keeps its pledges as well as England has kept hers, the future of the Southern colonies will be greatly brightened. General Botha, the former Boer commander and now premier, has issued a striking statement which expresses gratification for the confidence shown by the English government and promises an enlightened and progressive policy.

### THE NEW THEOLOGY.

Mr. Campbell has broken silence, and expounded his creed at considerable length, says the Belfast Witness. He shows that the modern Christian has little regard for systematic theology and "professional theologians." He repudiates any attempt to form a new Religion, but thinks that Christian truths should be re-stated in terms of present-day thought and knowledge. He shows that many are leaving the churches, because they cannot accept the creeds as formulated in the past, and understood by average persons. There is some truth in these remarks. But then he repeated the leading points in the new faith—God is in the world, and in man, Christ is Divine because He is man; sin is selfishness, atonement is effected not alone by Christ, but by every unselfish man who suffers for others.

The Jews claim Mr. Campbell as teaching that there is no Divine Son of God. Unitarians claim him as denying the orthodox doctrine of sin and atonement. Quakers claim him as appealing from the written Word to the inward light of the Christian consciousness. American opinion is divided, many Congregationalists siding with the New Theology; in Australia it is the same, Congregationalism seemingly honeycombed with the City Temple notions. Everywhere Presbyterians are too well balanced to be easily carried off their feet, and Methodists so occupied with Evangelism they have no thought for such theosophical subtleties.

### BIBLE SOCIETY CONVENTION.

The Canadian Bible Society, at its annual convention just closed at Ottawa, reported an income exceeding that of the previous year by \$16,000. It has remitted \$30,000 to the British and Foreign Bible Society, being over \$12,000 more than former contributions. At the same time it has reserved a much larger balance of \$10,000 to carry on the work throughout Canada and Newfoundland. Nearly 90,000 copies of scripture were circulated during the year, many thousands of them among the polyglot immigrants in their many tongues at Quebec, St. John and Halifax as they arrived and at Winnipeg before they scattered over the prairie. The society has forty colporteurs and Bible-women at work. Rev. R. J. Bowen (Church of England), Ladysmith, B.C., Rev. W. E. Hassard, B.D. (Methodist), Toronto, and Rev. Thos. Bennett (Presbyterian), Montreal, were appointed District Secretaries for British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec, in addition to other agents in the field. The General Board consists of 42 representatives of all the Auxiliaries from Newfoundland to the Pacific.

The Governor-General appeared as its patron at the public meeting in Ottawa, and spoke some words of cordial sympathy with the society's work. When he heard of the six million copies circulated during the year, and of the 200 million copies issued since the Society was founded, and when he thought how those were produced, not in one language, but in 400 languages, he thought how the output must exceed the total output of the largest publishing house in the world, and how the work must be complicated and call for men of brains. All the forces of the time tended towards union, and he was glad to stand on a platform broad enough to include Anglicans, Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists, Congregationalists and Quakers which knew no sectarian difference. The President, Dr. N. W. Hoyles, K.C., was in the chair, and Archdeacon Armitage, Halifax, Dr. Cameron, Ottawa, and Rev. R. E. Welsh, the General Secretary, addressed the meeting.

### WESTERN ONTARIO.

In Hamilton a movement is on foot to organize a new congregation and erect a \$75,000 church in the southeast end of the city, with a seating capacity of 1,000.

Rev. Professor Mackenzie, who appeared before the London Presbytery for St. Andrew's church, Westmount, said that the newspapers were largely responsible for the call extended to Mr. Clark. Many members of the congregation had seen his picture in the papers, and had expressed a strong desire to meet with and hear the original of the half-tones speak.

The Rhodes scholarship, entitling the holder to a three years' course at Oxford University, its cash value being \$300 a year, has been awarded by Queen's senate to Norman Macdonnell, son of the late Rev. D. J. Macdonnell of Toronto. Campbell Laidlaw, M.A., son of late Rev. Dr. Laidlaw, Hamilton, has received the science research scholarship, valued at \$750 for two years.

The minister of Knox church, Listowel, and his good wife were surprised last Monday evening, when about 50 ladies of the congregation took possession of their home, bringing with them a feast of good things also a large, mysterious bundle which, when unrolled, proved to be a beautiful parlor rug, a present for Mrs. Hardie, together with a tray of Limoges china, as an appreciation of unflinching effort to advance the social, intellectual and spiritual welfare of the congregation.