

the persuasion that improvement is taking place. There was much need, and there is still, for such improvement; for the extent to which profanity has been and is thus indulged in, ay, even among many who have a name in some of the Churches of Christ, and who would be angry if their rightful claim to being called Christians were brought into serious question, is simply deplorable.

But in reference to a fourth point which many have a shrinking dislike to touch even in the gentlest way, the prevailing feeling seems to be that far from any improvement taking place matters tend steadily in the opposite direction. We speak especially of sins against the seventh commandment. Time was in the history of Canada, if we are to believe the testimony of many of the ministers of the comparatively olden days, when there was scarcely any trouble in the Church from this cause, and when, even among those who made no profession of religion, an illegitimate child was scarcely known. The feeling, we have been assured, was too high and too sensitive to tolerate such immorality, and, in the rare instances in which it occurred, public opinion made it in the last degree unpleasant for the offending parties to remain in the locality. Men of unimpeachable veracity have assured us that, in the course of a comparatively lengthened pastorate, they had not had more than two or three such cases in all, and that they had known only of a very limited number in the general community during the same period.

We are afraid that the same thing could not, with truth, be affirmed generally in the present day. The deterioration which took place generally among the rural population of Scotland in this respect in the course of a single generation was as marked as it was humiliating; and it is to be feared that to a certain extent the same thing is to be said of this western world during the last twenty years. We say "to a certain extent" for the evil is neither so general nor so shameless as it is in too many districts of the old land. What may have been the immediate cause or causes of this deterioration we shall not at present inquire. The all-effective remedy is evident. As the tone of piety in any locality rises so will the general morality. As the former falls so does the latter decay. The prevailing ape-theory of descent, logically carried out, necessarily ends in ape morality; and we have never heard that that, any more than that of dogs, was either very high or very desirable. Of all questions then, this last comes to be among the most important in reference to Canada's future, for national greatness and national stability have never been found for any length of time, where general license prevailed, and where womanly virtue had become anything rather than either sacred or sensitive.

We call attention to the advertisement in this week's issue in reference to the prize essays in connection with Knox College, as well as with regard to the College Calendar for next academical year.

We have to acknowledge receipt of the following additional sums for the relief of the starving people in Asiatic Turkey: Previously acknowledged, \$71; Grace —, Proton, \$1; A friend, N.S., \$4; Miss Dawes, Lachine, \$5; Mr. T. A. Dawes, Lachine, \$5; James C —, Montague, \$5; total, \$91.

The sub-committee on home mission work on Tuesday last appointed the Rev. J. Wellwood, of Côte des Neiges, Montreal, and the Rev. H. Cameron, formerly of the Canada Pacific Railway, on the regular staff of missionaries to the North-West. We understand there were eleven applicants for such an appointment. It is hoped that by the meeting in October, the funds will warrant the appointment of others.

We understand that all the members of Assembly who intend to be present at the meeting in Montreal have been communicated with and that the necessary documents have been forwarded to them. In case, however, that any have been overlooked, or that some may have changed their minds about attending, it will be well for those who have any doubt on the subject to communicate with the Rev. Mr. Warden, 260 St. James street, Montreal, at once, so as to prevent the possibility of disappointment.

MR. GEORGE T. BAYNE, Treasurer of Students' Missionary Society, Presbyterian College, Montreal,

thankfully acknowledges the following sums. John Munro, B.A., \$20; Thanet and Ridge, \$5; A Pembroke Lad, \$1; J. L. Gibb, Quebec, per J. A. Anderson, \$20; Rev. R. Hamilton, \$5; Erskine Church, Montreal, \$5; G. T. Bayne, \$1; Arch. Lee, \$1; M. D. M. Blakely, B.A., \$1; R. Gamble, \$1; Peter R. Ross, \$1; W. A. McKenzie, \$1; G. Whillans, \$2; Daniel McKay, \$1; Massawippi, Richby and Coaticooke, \$24; Cantly, per Mrs. R. Allen, \$7; G. D. Bayne, B. A., \$3; John Ray, per Jas. McFarland, \$2; Alex. McFarland, \$1; Stanley street Presbyterian Church, \$12.

THE last public meeting, for the season, of the Young Men's Literary Society of Three Rivers, took place on Monday, 3rd inst. The lecture room of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church was well filled. The Rev. Mr. Ryan occupied the chair, and opened the meeting by prayer. The programme consisted of music, readings, and recitations, by Messrs. McDougall, Shortis, Williams, and McCaffry. The event of the evening was a debate on the question: "Should Women be Admitted to the Practice of the Liberal Profession?" The affirmative was ably and vigorously supported by Mr. R. W. Williams and Mr. J. M. McDougall, B.C.L. Thenegave was then taken up by Mr. J. Shortis, followed by the Rev. C. E. Amaron, M.A. After a good deal of sharp shooting on both sides, the question was put to the meeting, when the vote stood as follows: for the affirmative 32; and for the negative, 51. The president thanked the audience for the interest they had manifested in the meeting, and the chairman thanked the young men for the intellectual treats they had afforded, and, among others, an able and interesting lecture on "Independence" by Prof. Campbell of Montreal. The meeting was closed by the national anthem.

We are sure that all our readers will be pleased to learn that Professor A. B. Bruce, D.D. (of Apologetics and New Testament Exegesis, Free Church College, Glasgow), has been appointed deputy from the Free Church, Scotland, to the Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and that he leaves Glasgow for Montreal, direct, on the 26th inst. Professor Bruce is author of the Cunningham lecture on "Humiliation of Christ" and is in every way an able and accomplished man. The presence of such brethren at the yearly meetings of our supreme court cannot but be attended with great benefit. It makes the work in which the Church in Canada is engaged better known to friends on the other side of the ocean, while it is greatly calculated to encourage and stimulate those engaged in that work, by letting them understand how cordially they are sympathized with, and how carefully and intelligently the progress of their work is noted and rejoiced over by friends in all the different Presbyterian Churches of Scotland. Last year there was a deputy from the Established Church; this, from the Free, and all but certainly from the United Presbyterian, in the person of the Rev. Principal Cairns whose praise is in all the Churches. Nothing could be more acceptable than such visits, and nothing more calculated to bind both Churches and countries together in the bonds of a recognized common brotherhood and genuine co-citizenship as well.

#### OBITUARY.

John Caven, one of our most valued elders, passed away to his rest and reward on the 27th of March last, at the advanced age of eighty-three years. During the last six months he was almost constantly confined to bed through infirmity, but continued to bear witness to the faithfulness of the Saviour whose name he had long trusted in, and whose work he had often earnestly commended to others.

He was born in Wigtonshire, Scotland, in the year 1797. His father dying when he was a child, he was brought up under the care of his paternal grandfather—a Seceder of the good old type.

When he was brought to the knowledge of Christ is not known to us, but it must have been in early youth. His mother, a woman of much piety and excellence, had sown good seed in his mind, which produced fruit in a life of great usefulness.

About the year 1824 he was chosen as an elder by the First United Secession Congregation, of Stranraer, and discharged the duties of that office with exemplary diligence. He established Sabbath schools in

the Scottish parish where he lived, and taught in them many years. This part of his work has left a lasting impression on the community.

We found deep respect for him still existing, when, a few years ago, we visited that district of country. In his case the words are applicable, "The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance." He was well educated, having a good knowledge of Latin and mathematics, as well as of the ordinary English branches.

The years of his manhood in Scotland were chiefly occupied in teaching, and he had among his pupils a number of young men who subsequently entered the ministry of the Gospel. During this period of his life, as well as after coming to this country, he read a good deal of theology, and metaphysics bearing upon theology. Edwards was a favourite author with him, so that often we have found him studying closely Edwards on the "Will." His mind was penetrating and logical.

In 1847 he came to Canada with his family, and taught for some years in the village of Ayr. Then for some time he held the office of Superintendent of Schools in the county.

In 1855 he removed to the township of Fullarton, and settled upon a farm within the bounds of the congregation of which his son (Dr. Caven, of Knox College), was minister for a few years. Shortly after, a congregation was formed in Fullarton, when he took an active part in behalf of both young and old by teaching in the Sabbath school, and occasionally conducting services in the congregation during its vacancy. After a minister was settled over it Mr. Caven continued his efforts in the Sabbath school, and in the occasional absence of the minister, conducted the services of the congregation, much to the satisfaction and edification of the people.

When elders were selected in the fall of 1858 Mr. Caven was unanimously chosen.

As he had done in Scotland, he regularly visited the people in the district assigned to him, and when he learned of sickness in the neighbourhood he soon was present by the bedside, and in his own gentle way spoke the consolations of the Gospel. These visits were very highly appreciated, and many to-day cherish a grateful remembrance of his warm sympathy and earnest words.

It is difficult to write a record of such a man's life. His deep piety and his quiet modesty are more like the river which silently flows on and fertilizes the plain than the mountain torrent which presents many attractions to the curious beholder.

To know him fully it was needful to be in intimate fellowship with him. Even then his attainments and latent qualities were not at once discovered. His extreme modesty was one of his marked features, and much influenced his estimate of his own spiritual state. His mind was deeply reflective, and was occupied in self-examination very often, so that he was apt to feel depressed when he saw his own life was so far below the standard contained in the Scriptures; but he never indicated any doubts regarding the perfect suitability and sufficiency of Christ's work to the necessities of the human family. We have not met any man having clearer views of the Divine method of forgiveness, nor more firmly relying on the merits of Christ for acceptance with God.

His witness bearing for the truth was by a long consistent life. Se'dom could he speak much on his death-bed. Among the last things he said to me in response to a question was, "I am resting on what Christ has done for me." It is seldom we are called on to part with one of whose future well-being we have so satisfactory assurance. And though we have reason to mourn over our own loss—the loss of his cheerful company, of his helpful counsel, and daily prayers for the prosperity of Zion—we have reason to rejoice that he has gone to be forever with the Lord.

The Scriptures were his study day and night, and in their truths he greatly delighted. Of him one of the Session, who passed away to his rest eighteen months before him, was accustomed to say on his deathbed, "Mr. Caven's conversation is in heaven." Another who knew him well says, "His life now completed on earth, seems to have been above all things earnestly religious." May his example stimulate us to follow him as he followed Christ.

R. H.

MISSIONARY effort would appear to have paid in Burmah. There are at the present time 350 Christian churches in that country, and nine-tenths of the work of evangelization being done is in the hands of native teachers.