

DR. DENNY IN MONTREAL.

The Rev. Dr. Denny, Professor of New Testament literature and exegesis at the United Free College, Glasgow, while in Montreal on invitation appeared before the Ministerial association and gave an address. The Rev. Dr. Symonds presided, and there was a large attendance including Principle Scrimger, of the Presbyterian College; Principal Bedford, of the Deesian College; Dr. Warriner, of the Congregational College, and others.

Professor Denny spoke upon the relation of the Scottish churches towards theological questions, and showed how the strict dividing lines between the churches were gradually being done away with. He was tempted to remark, to say that Scotland no longer took an interest in strictly theological questions. The churches were separating themselves from the old dogmatic forms of the Christian faith. No matter how they liked to keep up the affection of being to the old forms, they were really abandoning them, though he hoped not in substance. The established church had now obtained from parliament power to alter the Westminster Confession, and while that confession would remain the creed of the church, it would be so relaxed that the officers of the church would not be bound to every jot and tittle of it, but only to what was held to be the substance of the reformed faith.

The question which was now exercising them was, what was the substance of the reformed faith? What was essential in Christianity as the evangelical churches had experienced it and were experiencing it? The churches had their fundamental doctrines, but the people were not asking what these doctrines were. They were asking what was Christianity? What was the essence of the thing? In one shape or another all men were prepared to give the answer that Christianity was Christ, and what people were anxious to do now, he believed all the world over, was to get into contact with Christ.

The definitions of Christ, and of his work and of God and the universe that had satisfied former generations had meanwhile lost interest, and what the people were anxious about really was Christ himself and the true way to conceive him and to preach him. The thing absolutely necessary for them to know and for men to hear could be summed up in one word—'Christ.'

The more they thought of it the more they would realize, he believed, that there were two things without which the Christian religion could not live, without which men could not get anything in the shape of the gospel. The first thing was the mind of Christ, and the second was the exaltation of Christ.

TABLE TALK.

In a hospitable family where guests are frequently entertained there is advantage to the children in the conversation at the table. Some guests are very intelligent and their talk is an education to the young members of the household. A well-informed visitor opens a store of thought that may prove to be the beginning of a boy's desire to make the most of himself. A man or woman of fine mind with knowledge gathered from study, travel or contact with cultivated people, becomes the ideal of a child. This gives force to the Scripture injunction, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers, for some thereby have entertained angels unawares." It may be said also of guests that it is their duty and opportunity to bring their treasures of thought into the home so far as is consistent with good taste, so that their visit may be a bright spot in the home life. Religious impressions are often left in the minds of children by the excellent words of men who have talked with God. Returned missionaries have rare information that is delightful as the subject of table talk and to which little ears listen with wonder.—The Watchman.

LEAVING FOR FORMOSA.

A most impressive service was that held in St. John's Church, Toronto when Miss Janie M. Kinney, B.A., of Florenceville, N.B., and Miss Connell of Alliston, Ont. were bade farewell before leaving for the mission field of northern Formosa to establish and conduct a school for native girls. They are sent out by the Foreign Missionary Committee of the Presbyterian Church. Both are graduates of the Ewart Missionary Training Home. Rev. Dr. MacLaren, Rev. Dr. Kilpatrick, Rev. Dr. McTavish, Rev. Alfred Gandier and Rev. Dr. R. P. MacKay delivered addresses at last night's service. Mrs. A. R. Gregory, President of the Toronto Presbyterian Society, assured the future missionaries of the abiding thoughts and prayers of all women of the Church, and presented them both with Bibles from the society.

Rev. Dr. Kilpatrick reminded the recipients of this earnest farewell that it was indeed the most solemn season of their lives. Called to the dark world of heathendom, their past would hereafter be a void, but he was confident they would both have abundant cause for thanksgiving and few regrets for their self-imposed vows. To the departing heartiest congratulations were proffered with no note of lament—congratulations that they had made the very best investment of their well-trained talents. The demand for varied powers on the foreign field was unique, also the opportunity for all the thousand exaltations of a great, noble and joyful life. Of all the trials they must face their separation from home would be the most unutterable. The disappointments, the long waiting, the absence of all nourishment, apart from their own prayers for grace, would all test their mettle. Dr. Kilpatrick urged the meeting to make a sacred promise to keep the two consecrated ladies in their sincerest prayers.

Rev. Dr. MacLaren, who presided, spoke of the Church's former work in Formosa, and the abiding inspiration of the late Rev. Dr. MacKay. He assured the young missionaries that their work would instill in them even greater zeal than they thought themselves possessed of.

FOOLISH WORSHIPPERS

It would have been a good thing for the world if all those worshippers of the golden calf had perished in the wilderness. But they have kept on down the ages. They are still at it, worse than ever. Like all other worshippers, the calf idolater soon comes to partake of the nature of the being which he worships. His thought are of gold, his dreams are of gold; he toils, he plans, he schemes for gold; his heart is gold and his brain seems to be of golden convolutions. Life is a golden quest and friends are sacrificed to the golden calf; health and honor are bid upon its altar. A heart of stone is not worse than a heart of gold. Truly the love of money is the root of evil. It makes men hard-hearted, selfish, churlish; it drives them into cliques and clubs, carousals and corruptions; it makes them imperious, lordly, all-sufficient, and separates from God.

It is one of the clear teachings of the Scriptures that any talent or gift to be profitable must be employed. Here preservation is unprofitableness. It is the same whether the thing entrusted be large or small. It must be used, it must be employed. Upon whether it is put to usury may in the development of events, prove a very momentous thing. But the thing to remember is that if our trust be only one talent it is everything to us. Its improvement secures all that is for us in life; if unimproved, if lost, all is lost. Happy is the man of one talent of whom it can be said:

"His virtues walked their narrow round,
Nor made a pause, nor left a void;
And sure the Eternal Master found
His single talent well employed."

TRIALS AND TRIUMPHS.

Some Bible Hints.

A good workman does not test a worthless tool, or one that has no promise in it (v. 2).

Our coming triumph is—to be perfect, to be just what Christ wants us to be. All other triumphs are lost in this (v. 4.)

Earthly fathers sometimes rebuke their children for their many requests, but God is more likely to rebuke us that we ask so little of Him (v. 5).

The hardest part of a prayer is after we have prayed, and the answer does not come at once, or manifestly. Still, even then, to pray is to obtain (v. 6).

Suggestive Thoughts.

"Good things are hard." Plato was fond of saying, and the Christian's triumph is the best thing.

There is no triumph except along Christ's way, and also no trial is sent the faithful Christian except along the way where Christ is.

Temptation has two meanings—an inviting to sin, and a testing of virtue. God sends only the latter.

To doubt that Christ has met your special temptation is to doubt His perfect humanity; to doubt that He can help you out of it is to doubt His perfect divinity.

A Few Illustrations.

The larger and more perfect the diamond, the more certain that it will be placed on the grinding-stone.

Old soldiers have no greater joy than to relate the battles that were most terrible for them, and one of the greatest joys of heaven will be to remember the temptations over which we triumphed on earth.

Strong horses rejoice to be put to their topmost speed, and a strong Christian exults in having his Christianity tested.

"No cross, no crown," has become a Christian motto, and a crown surmounting a cross has become a Christian symbol.

To Think About.

Do I turn at once to Christ in any trial? Have I earned a share in Christ's triumphs?

Am I learning to rejoice in tribulations?

A Cluster of Quotations.

Lord, mail my heart with faith, and be my shield,

And if a world confront me, I'll not yield.

Francis Quarles.

So be ours the faith that saveth,
Hope that every trial braveth,
Love, that to the end endureth,
And through Christ the crown secureth!

Bishop Doane.

When the devil tries our faith, it is that he may crush it or diminish it, but when God tries our faith, it is to establish it or increase it.—Marcus Rainsford.

It would take the wrinkleless out of your brow if you would just look into the future instead of the past.—Moody.

For Prayer-Meeting Leaders.

Plan your meeting as far in advance as possible.

Study the good points of other meetings.

Write out a programme of your meeting. Include in your plans at least one novel feature.

Begin on time, and close on time.

Assign work in connection with the meeting to different members in advance. Call for sentence prayers at some time in the meeting.

Have a definite thing which the meeting is to accomplish.

Be very brief in your opening exercises.

Have much singing, but ask the members not to call for hymns as their part in the meeting.

FOR DAILY READING.

M., Oct. 2. Persecution. I Pet. 4: 12-19.
T., Oct. 3. The tempter. I Pet. 5: 8-11.
W., Oct. 4. Patience. Job 1: 1-12.
Th., Oct. 5. Endurance. Dan. 3: 19-27.
F., Oct. 6. Weakness. 2 or 12: 7-10.
S., Oct. 7. Poverty. 1 or 4: 7-13.
Sun., Oct. 8. Topic—The Christian's trials and triumphs. Jas. 1: 1-8.