

Ravages of Rationalism.

Editor PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW.

SIR,—Permit me to say a word with reference to a paragraph that appeared in the REVIEW of May 10th, entitled the "Ravages of Rationalism," and describing what the writer imagines is the influence of the late Professor Smith's teachings in the Free Church of Scotland. To anyone who knows even a little about the condition of the Free Church such a statement must appear a total misrepresentation. I have been a church member in Aberdeen and Edinburgh under two "rationalistic" ministers whose churches have not a vacant pew and whose pulpits continually ring out with the pure Gospel. I have studied in New College, Edinburgh, and heard many Free Church ministers but I have absolutely failed to find trace of these "ravages." Surely, sir, it is ridiculous to suppose that the ministers of the Free Church have surrendered their Bibles and with them all independence of judgment, and have taken to blind following of Professor Smith. But the writer finds an indisputable proof of it. Suddenly, ten years after Professor Smith left the church, the pews have emptied and the Sustentation Fund has gone down £4,000. The writer's weakness of logic is only paralleled by his ignorance of fact. Financial depression had hitherto been looked upon as the insufficient cause of this falling off a cause which has been producing similar results in other churches and in other countries. Since, then, other churches have suffered likewise, it is, to say the least of it, needless to devise a special reason to meet the case of the Free Church. But special reasons there are. When we consider the great demand upon the church's liberality made by the Jubilee Fund last year and the magnificent response that was made to it, it is only wonderful that the ordinary funds have suffered so little. But some men have an unhappy facility for seeing only what they wish to see, and perhaps they are to be pitied for, they see neither very far nor very clearly.

Yours, etc.,

JAS. H. MORRISON.

Buffalo Lake, N.W.T.,
May 25th, 1894.

The Links That Bind Us.

BY JOHN IMRIE, TORONTO.

Oh! the fond links that bind us to this earth,
Strong as bands of iron—yet fine as gold;
Partings and tears oft mingled with our mirth,—

If loving much love never can grow cold!

Ah! were it not for partings now and then,
Love of home and friends were never tested,—

Hardship and trial make the noblest men:
Present pain is future joy invested!

The patriot's wistful eyes are dimm'd with tears

When parting from his much-lov'd soil,
His heart doth throb with many doubts and fears,

Yet hope points forward though his soul recoil!

But when the weary years have come and gone,
And o'er the sea he homeward ploughs his way,

He finds his former doubts and fears have flown—

Midnight with him hath changed to dawn of day!

A mother parts with one—her only son,
Each shows but half the anguish that they feel,—

The voyage finished, or the battle won,
What depths of love the meeting doth reveal!

Methinks such joy is ours when God, at last,
Shall find us gather'd 'neath Heaven's azure dome;

Our journeys, tears, and partings of the past
Will be as naught if we but reach our home!

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By order W. MACLEAN,
Managing Director

Toronto, June 6th, 1894

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By order of the Board

JAMES MASON, Manager.

Toronto, June 8, 1894

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The Art Interchange. New York