

lesson we have been learning is, that we need our *best men* for the foreign field. Some think a man who is a failure at home would achieve tolerable success abroad. God is showing the utter fallacy of this reasoning. There are many of us who can do fairly well at home, but little or nothing in the foreign field. There is a great and rare combination of qualities requisite for this kind of work. A field marshal chosen from the Royal Family may do well enough at a grand review in time of peace; but, when there is a real foe to be encountered, and victories to be won, we send Carnot Wolseley. (*Applause.*) This very beautiful and appropriate illustration the Doctor would venture to offer with all loyal deference to the Royal Family. We must never make light of the self-denial of those who have left home and friends, and taken their lives in their hands to go to the foreign field. Without this spirit of self-denial, it is vain to go. But there is another aspect under which it is to be viewed. If we hear of some young man being appointed to some lucrative secular position in a foreign land, we congratulate him. But we condole with the foreign missionary of the Cross who has been appointed standard-bearer to the King of kings. The speaker then alluded in the most touching way to Mr. Joseph Builder, B.A., and Mr. John Jamieson, both Alumni of Knox College, showing that in their case they did not ask the condolence of any. They both accepted their appointments with thankfulness. They had counted the cost, but were willing to go. To go to India was Mr. Builder's dream in childhood, and the prayer of his manhood. Mr. Jamieson had with sadness given up the hope of going to the foreign field, but now his highest hopes have been realized. The agency of the Holy Ghost must be noticed in the sending of these men as missionaries. We should give attention to this subject in our prayer meetings. It lifts us up to feel the honor that God puts upon us in calling us to be co-workers with Himself.

PULPIT VERSUS BAR.

PUBLIC MEETING OF THE PHILOSOPHICAL AND LITERARY SOCIETY.

The Morrice Hall was well filled on Friday evening, November 23d, on which occasion an attractive entertainment was provided by the Philosophical and Literary Society.

The proceedings commenced with devotional exercises, Rev. A. B. Cruchet, graduate of '78, leading briefly in prayer; after which the President of the Society, Mr. D. Currie, B.A., made a few explanatory remarks, concluding by calling Rev. Jas. Fleck, B.A., of Knox Church, to the chair. The appointed programme was then faithfully carried out.

The first number was a song by the McGill Quartette, Messrs. Huntington, Porter, Macfarlane and Thomas, all of whom did themselves credit.

Mr. J. H. Macvicar read Carey's poem on "The Power of Eloquence," and was followed by

Miss Macmaster, who rendered with her accustomed taste and skill Sullivan's "Lost Chord," which was vociferously encored.

The chairman, in his own happy way, announced the subject of debate: "Does the Pulpit afford greater scope for Eloquence than the Bar?"

Mr. A. Lee, B.A., led the affirmative in an admirable manner, contending that one of the most essential conditions of eloquence in a speaker is sympathy with his subject, which sympathy is limited in the bar, but unlimited in the pulpit. In the latter there is a connecting bond of interests between speaker and audience. Pulpit eloquence has a definite aim the world over, seeking the salvation of mankind, whereas the lawyer's aim is to benefit but one man, and that his client. The pulpit ever pleads for the truth, whereas the greater part of the work of the bar is in bolstering up a case that cannot stand. The pulpit claims a theme of universal interest, and one that can never grow old. This claim the bar can hardly make.

Mr. George Whillans, B.A., in support of the negative, offered a psychological argument. It is necessary to examine the human mind and learn its desires and wants before we can attain true eloquence. Now, the ministry deals only with abstract themes, while the lawyer takes up things that are present; and it is a well-known principle that men enter with ten-fold more energy into natural concretions than they

do with abstractions. Again, the bar affords a greater variety of themes, each case that comes up having peculiarities of its own, and no two cases being exactly the same. The bar has also the incentive of greater and more open opposition than the pulpit, and greater versatility of knowledge is required.

Mr. S. Rondeau, in replying to the previous speaker's arguments, pointed out that a great deal of the earnestness and eloquence attributed to the opposing counsel of the bar was only feigned. He saw greater scope for eloquence in the pulpit in the importance and variety of its themes, and was content to let the decision of the question rest on the actual results of pulpit eloquence, contending that in the case of the bar these were not lasting, not even when a lawyer does succeed in foiling the attempts of justice.

Mr. Z. Lefebvre, B.C.L., enlarged on some of the arguments already deduced on behalf of the negative side, and said that in many cases the subjects treated in the pulpit were repugnant to human nature. The people, he thought, were not as a rule much impressed with eloquence which exhorted them to liberal giving.

Mr. Lee in a pointed speech summed up the arguments *pro* and *con*, after which the chairman expressed himself pleased with the discussion on both sides. He considered himself as the judge, but the audience were the jury, and since the case was a most important one, he would lock them up for the night and they could give their verdict to one another at the breakfast table.

The McGill Quartette favored the meeting with another piece entitled "Sunrise," which was rendered in good style and encored.

A hearty speech from the chair concluded the programme, and all present were invited to visit the Library, Office of the COLLEGE JOURNAL and other parts of the buildings. After the singing of the Doxology the benediction was pronounced by Principal Macvicar, and the audience formally dismissed.

After the Christmas Holidays a conversation will be given under the auspices of the society.

A NEW HEBRIDES MISSIONARY.

On the afternoon of November 21st, Rev. — Robertson, of Erromango, addressed the students on the subject of Foreign Missions. He referred to the martyrs who had gone before him, and told how he was induced to volunteer his services for this field of labor. He then spoke of the difficulties encountered in establishing a station there, of the trials and vicissitudes of a life in the mission field, and of his own labors, both mental and manual. The climate he declared delightful, graphically describing the tropics with their sunny skies, balmy breezes, and delicious fruits. Mr. Robertson has met with great success, and tells us there is much encouragement to push forward the work with renewed vigor. The language is easily learned, and the people are comparatively ready to receive the glad tidings of the gospel of peace. He spoke for an hour fluently and eloquently, and we trust to good purpose, his aim being to induce some of our own number to take up the work. He is home for rest and to collect funds to defray the expenses of publishing the four gospels in the native tongue. At one of the missionary meetings in Erskine Church he delivered a very interesting address.

PHILOSOPHICAL AND LITERARY SOCIETY.

The last two ordinary meetings of the society have been conducted with marked ability. At the first, C. MacKerchar read an essay on Presbyterianism, giving vent to some excellent thoughts and praiseworthy sentiments. This was followed by a reading by J. H. Higgins that manifested care and study. A discussion on "Popular Amusements" was lead off by M. L. Leitch and J. W. McKenzie, B.A. They were followed by a numerous array of speakers, all of whom were unusually spirited. By a vote of the society the same discussion was continued at the next ordinary meeting. Many more members were thus afforded an opportunity to make known their views on this burning question of the day, but owing to various distracting cause the general tone of this meeting was dull. On this occasion R. McKnight, B.A., read a thoughtful essay entitled, "*Mens sana in corpore sano.*" Mr. McKnight is a firm believer in this doctrine, and gave us a good essay.