

DR. WHYTE ON UNION.

J. M. C. contributes to the British Weekly, the following notes of Dr. Whyte's closing lecture for the season, taking for his subject the three great pioneers and promoters of Church Union in Scotland:

Speaking extempore to the class, as is his wont, for an hour and a quarter, Dr. Whyte characterized, in glowing and felicitous language, the noble part taken by the three eminent divines in the healing work of Union.

"So far as I know there has not been a Church on the face of the earth that has seen so many secessions, disruptions, or separations as our own Church of Christ in Scotland. The Reformation itself was a Disruption. The Church had become corrupt—impossible to live in for any man of godliness, or sensibility even to mortality and righteousness, and the Reformation under Knox was simply a great Disruption of the old Church of Christ in Scotland. Afterwards in the Reformed and Established Church, when times of coldness came, and times of indifference to liberty and righteousness in the Assembly and elsewhere, then the old reforming temper broke out again to the honor and salvation of Scotland and the Church. But I think we have come to a time when the disruptions of God's Church are coming to an end, and when the duty of the best in the land is to draw together these wounds and heal them. Perhaps the bleeding was needed, but when the bleeding has served its purpose, it is time to heal the wound.

"Our forefathers were no sooner outside the Established Church than they began to look for Union. Dr. Chalmers said, 'For myself, I cannot see any obstacle in the way of being fellow-workers, and that in the way of co-operation without incorporation—co-operation now, and this with the view, as soon as may be, of incorporation afterwards.' This was spoken immediately after the laceration of the Disruption. Taking the line of least resistance, the leaders of the Free Church endeavored to form a Union with the body most like themselves—the United Presbyterian Church." As to

1. Dr. Buchanan.

"Chalmers and Candlish were rather of the Knox type of men, ardent of spirit, whereas Buchanan and Rainy were more of the type of Andrew Melville and Andrew Henderson—more of the statesman in them than of the moving orator. Dr. Buchanan was a man of statesmanlike serenity and dignity, from his look a man of breeding and blood who might have sat in the House of Peers—a man of commanding presence and character. 'That stately Presbyterian divine' (Professor Masson's designation of Robert Bruce) seems to me to sum up Dr. Buchanan. His speeches in the Assembly were great events all ways, but especially on Sustentation Fund nights. When he was expounding schemes for the development of that successful, needful, God-blessed fund for which he was then the expert director, I was always reminded of Gladstone's epoch-making Budget speeches in the House of Commons. Both brought their godliness to bear upon their financial measures, and lifted the debates into a higher and surer level. In 1863, when the proposal was made for Union with the U.P.'s, Buchanan said, 'This Union cannot have taken any man by surprise. From the very first it was manifest to all thoughtful men that two such bodies as the United Presbyterian and ourselves could not long resist the necessity of carefully considering our relations to each other.' Later, when the obstacles in the way of Union proved insurmountable it was with a sad and suffering heart that he thus

concluded his memorable speech in the Assembly: 'I had hoped to carry the plough to the end of the furrow, but it is God's dark dispensation, to which I bow, that I have to leave the plough in the middle of the furrow for purer and stronger hands to lead, in God's good time, to the end of the field.'"

2. Dr. Candlish.

After describing Dr. Candlish's great gifts as a preacher and an Assembly debater, Dr. Whyte said he would relate one incident to show Candlish's passion for Union. "Dr. Candlish, as leader of the Assembly, had to sign the motion suspending the negotiations for Union. He was ill at the time, and so Drs. Buchanan and Rainy, and others, waited upon him at the manse for his signature. At first he would not sign the motion, and such was his holy passion and indignation at all these years of brotherly love being frustrated, that he threw the paper back in Buchanan's face, and flung himself upon the sofa with a broken heart. At last they got him persuaded to sign."

3. Dr. Rainy.

"His father was the foremost citizen in Glasgow. There was a distinction of character, life, and saintliness about the old Doctor that made him their foremost man—and Dr. Rainy was his son." After briefly touching upon the Principal's career, Dr. Whyte said: "When any delicate business came to the Assembly, it was laid in Rainy's hands. Cases of discipline and disorder were left to his wisdom, sagacity, tact, and knowledge of man and of the House, so that—to use his own words—he might 'extricate' them. When Rainy was ill on one occasion, a friend of mine asked Dr. Candlish how affairs would be managed if the illness ended fatally. 'Taud yer tongue, man,' said Candlish, 'if anything happened to Rainy we might shut up shop.' When negotiations for Union were reopened, Dr. Rainy was the man on our side pointed out by God's finger to lead. It has been said that Rainy was to blame for rushing the Union. Gentlemen, if I have any influence with you, you will believe me that never was a greater misrepresentation made about a noble man' (Cheers). 'I have sat beside him at the same table when the most influential elders from Glasgow, Dundee and Aberdeen were urging him to reopen the negotiations, but Dr. Rainy held back and held back. Probably by his prescience he foresaw something of the difficulty and dangers in the way. I remember once talking with Rainy about Gladstone when the latter was under his greatest persecution. 'Oh,' said Rainy, 'it does not trouble him much; he lives in facile asceticism.' Whether that was true of Gladstone or not, it certainly was true of Dr. Rainy. See him there when the persecution was hottest, within the bubble of the day pass over his serene and noble head. It was a lesson in public morals to us all.' (Cheers). 'When the abuse was at its height, I said to him, 'I wonder, man, you can go on with all this.' 'Oh!' he said, 'I am happy at home.' (Applause). 'I have known many happy homes, but I never saw a happier home than Mrs. Rainy gave to her husband. It was indeed a harbor to him, and a place of retreat and refreshment.'"

None could wish for greater tribute than that accorded General Gordon as inscribed on his tomb in St. Paul's Cathedral. He was an example 'emulation in its effect. "Who at all times and everywhere gave his strength to the weak, his substance to the poor, his sympathy to the suffering, and his heart to God."

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

Princess Louise celebrated her fifty-ninth birthday last month.

Manchester, next to London, has more public houses than any other of the British cities.

Rev. J. Kelman was to be inducted colleague and successor to Rev. Dr. Whyte, St. George's U. F. Church, on April 3rd.

St. Patrick's Day celebrations at Stewartstown led to a riot between Nationalists and Orange mobs. Several policemen were injured.

Both in the United Kingdom and in the United States alcoholic beverages contribute more than a fourth of the total receipts to the Treasury.

The steady flow to Canada of Scotia's best blood continues, and on the 23rd ult. no fewer than 2,000 emigrants left the Clyde. Nearly all of them were Scotch.

There are 27,941,960 people whose lives are insured in the United Kingdom, the total value of the policies in force amounting to the enormous sum of £10,005,806,588.

Within one week recently the grave closed over three of Biggar's oldest inhabitants—Mrs. Brunton, Mr. Allan and Mr. McMath—whose ages aggregated 270 years.

It is understood that Dr. W. M. Macgregor will be the late Principal Rainy's successor in the convener'ship of the Highlands and Islands Committee of the United Free Church.

Cultivated Moslems are now taking only one wife. The Khedive himself has only one recognized wife, the Khedivah, and there is a growing feeling in favour of monogamy.

A Troon man who was one of the aspirants for a church officership not 100 miles from Glasgow was rather taken aback on learning that there were "only 776 applicants" for the post.

A census office bulletin gives the estimated population of continental United States for 1906 as \$3,941,510, and the United States, including Alaska and the insular possessions, as 93,182,240.

The ancient "Green Inn" at Leslie, which stands at the entrance to Christ's Kirk on the Green—"the scene of the Royal poem—is to be demolished, and a fountain marking the spot will be erected.

A veteran Edinburgh precentor has passed away in the death of Mr. James Porteous. He was 80 years of age, and was acquainted with Alex. Hume, David Kennedy, and other Scottish musical celebrities.

The name of the Rev. Donald MacLeod, Dalry, who is a son of the minister of Park Church, Glasgow, has been submitted to the congregation of Inverness High Church in succession to Dr. Norman MacLeod.

Easter was made the occasion for exposing to view in the First Presbyterian church, Philadelphia, a tablet commemorating the 200th anniversary of the organization of the Presbyterian church in this country.

Lady Glen-Coats, who is to be the hostess at the reception to be given upon April 23rd, at her house in Belgrave-square, London, to the Colonial statesmen who will then be visiting London, is herself of Canadian birth, being a daughter of the late Mr. Alex. Walker, of Montreal. Her marriage to Mr. Coats took place in 1876.

A tablet was unveiled at Pembroke Congregational church, Bristol, on the 24th ult., in memory of Mrs. Jemima Luke, authoress of the well known children's hymn, "I think when I read that sweet story of old." Mrs. Luke, who died at the age of 92, was the wife of the Rev. Samuel Luke, first pastor of Pembroke church.