

THE Presbyterian Review.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 1889.

HORATIUS BONAR.

A NAME dear to the Christian world, but more especially the Presbyterian portion of it, has just been added to this year's death roll of famous persons, by the decease of Rev. Dr. Horatius Bonar. The event, which took place at his residence, Edinburgh, July 31st, was not altogether unexpected, for Dr. Bonar had reached the patriarchal age of eighty-one years, having been born December 19, 1808, in the city where he died, and was known to be in failing health for some considerable time.

He was the sixth son of Mr. James Bonar, Search Solicitor of the Excise for Scotland. He must have been drawn to the ministry by hereditary instinct, for in the list of his ancestors could not number James Bonar, the minister of Maybole who fought side by side with the great Henderson in the struggle against Prelacy; John Bonar, of Torphichen, who was one of the twelve in the famous "Narrow Controversy," and many others who did good service in the ecclesiastical history of Scotland?

With his only less famous brother, Rev. Dr. Andrew Bonar, the widely known author of the "Life of McChyne," he inherited poetic gifts from his grandfather, Rev. John Bonar, the author of some acceptable hymns and a preacher of more than local reputation. After the completion of the usual literary course, Mr. Bonar entered the Divinity Hall of Edinburgh, and had the advantage of receiving instruction from Dr. Chalmers, then in the full maturity of his powers.

Dr. Thomas Guthrie was also another of his teachers, and the influence of these eminent exponents of evangelical truth may easily be traced in his subsequent life. His first appointment after licensure was as missionary assistant to Mr. Lewis, of South Leith. In 1838 he was ordained to the pastorate of North church, Kelso on the Tweed, succeeding his father-in-law, Rev. Robert Lundie. Here it was that he first displayed those gifts and graces as a pastor and that ability as a writer which afterwards made him famous.

Speaking of his preaching there, a member of his congregation said: "Every separate sentence tells like the strokes of a hammer every stroke sends the nails further in and deeper down." His interest in literature is seen in the famous "Kelso Tracts," which have had an enormous circulation, and the able manner he filled the editor's chair of the Presbyterian Review and the Christian Treasury.

In 1843, with his friends and former instructors, Rev. Dr. Chalmers and Dr. Guthrie, he took part in the Disruption and in founding the Free Church of Scotland. In 1866 he became the first pastor of the Chalmers' Memorial Free Church on the Grange Road, in a district once one of the most beautiful of Edinburgh's suburbs. As a recognition of his eminent gifts and faithful Christian labour he received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from the University of Aberdeen, a well deserved tribute, as felt by all, though many took occasion at the time to disavow sympathy with his peculiar views on prophecy and his theories about the millennium. It will be remembered that Dr. Bonar filled with much acceptance the Moderator's chair in the Free Church Assembly in 1883. As might be readily supposed, Dr. Bonar never interposed much in ecclesiastical debates, but when he did his earnestness and depth of feeling, if they did not always carry conviction, never failed to secure attention. It will also be remembered that his jubilee was celebrated last year in the Chalmers' Memorial Church, when the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Sir Thomas Clark, presiding, and representatives being on the platform and in the meeting of nearly all denominations, numerous addresses were presented to him, together with a silver salver and a cheque for one thousand pounds, and that Sir William Muir, Principal of Edinburgh University, in making the presentation, said he esteemed it a very special honour to take part in such a historic occasion, inasmuch as Dr. Bonar's work and influence had been confined to no time or place, or section, or denomination of the Christian Church.

Dr. Bonar wrote much both in prose and verse. His best known prose works, in addition to the "Kelso Tracts" mentioned above, are "God's Way of Peace," the "Memoir of Rev. G. T. Dodds" his son-in-law, and "My Old Letters"—a most enjoyable volume. His poems are contained in the well known volumes, "Lyra Consolatoria" and "Hymns of Faith and Hope." It is, however, upon his hymns that his literary fame will chiefly rest, but these are sufficient to give perpetuity to his name as long as the English language endures. For generations to come the grateful heart of the devout Christian will find him an interpreter of gratitude and trust in the Risen Lord. Some of these hymns have found a place in nearly all collections, and are cherished in thousands of Christian homes. Among the most popular are: "A Few More Years Shall Roll," "I Lay My Sins on Jesus," "Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face," and "Thy Way, not Mine, O Lord." In addition to these four favourites, our own Hymnal contains seven others which have the same lyric fervour and devotional spirit with depth of feeling, which characterize the best efforts of his genius and make them eminently suitable for congregational or private worship.

As mentioned in a contemporary, a visitor to Dr. Bonar's church in 1876, thus describes in Duffield's "English Hymns," Dr. Bonar's personal appearance, with an incidental but well considered characterization of his hymns:—"The striking feature in his face is the large soft dark eye, the power of which one feels across the church. There are no bold, rugged lines in his face, but benevolence and peace pervade it. The first thought was 'he is just like his hymns—not great, but tender, sweet, and tranquil.' His voice is low, quiet and impressive. His prayer was as simple as a child's. His power over the audience was complete. Even the children looked steadily into his face. I was sure the little ones never heard the Good Shepherd's call more tenderly given."

The closing verse of his preface to "Old Letters" is worth recalling now: "I may not stay. These hills that smile around me are full of music, and its happy glow beckons me upward;—all that here has bound me seems now dissolving; daily I outgrow The chains and drags of earth. I rise, I go, I go."

TORONTO UNIVERSITY.

THE results of the Junior Matriculation Examinations, Toronto University published last week, afford gratifying proof of the sound growth and development of our public system of education. There were in all 263 candidates, of whom eight were in Medicine, the others in Arts. Of this small army, 213 candidates were successful—not including those who failed in one or two subjects, and who may appear again in September. No less than 46 candidates failed to pass—a sure proof that the tests applied were searching. The lists show that a fair proportion obtained honours, there being in the first class in Classics eleven names, in Mathematics fourteen, in English eight, in History and Geography ten, French twenty-one, German twenty-two. In the second class were equally large numbers. The young lady candidates are well to the front in all departments except Classics. A son

of the manse, Mr. G. F. Macdonnell, eldest son of the respected pastor of St. Andrew's, Toronto, and this year's *dux* of Upper Canada College, carries off the Prince of Wales' Prize for the highest standing in both Classics and Mathematics. This young gentleman also obtains, we observe, first class honours in English, French and German—a brilliant record. The candidates come from many training schools. Toronto Collegiate Institute heads the list with 19 successful candidates; then follow Upper Canada College with 18, St. Catharines, 15, and so on down to those which send one each, amongst which we find Brantford Ladies' College with a very successful representative. The above figures are eloquent as to the hold the Provincial University has upon the country, and incidentally afford very satisfactory evidence of the healthy condition of the secondary schools. We speak from personal observation in saying that the answer-papers of the candidates this year indicate, at any rate in the department of Classics, more thorough grounding and larger grasp of the correct principles of handling of the Latin and Greek languages so as to make them effective instruments of mental discipline, than ever before.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A PROPOS of the death of Dr. Horatius Bonar, it may be well to enquire if the good old custom of reading the portion to be sung, preparatory to the singing, is not going somewhat out of fashion. In some of our congregations it is the habit for the minister to indicate merely the number of the psalm or hymn, or at most in the case of the latter to read the Scripture legend. This may be a good plan for very poor readers; but for any one that can read decently it is a very poor plan and no help to the people to sing with the understanding. There is no question that the soulful sympathetic reading of the psalm or hymn by the minister does greatly assist the congregational singing. The minister should be able bring out the full meaning of the poem with proper emphasis and inflection, or he should go back to school again. There is as much reason for reading the hymn well as the Scripture lesson. Let us have both read and well read. We would not advocate the Methodist custom of "lining" the hymn,—for that cannot be called reading—but we would insist, in spite of the craze to be brief, upon adhering to the common-sense method of the minister's assisting in the service of praise with the spirit and the understanding by the preliminary careful reading—mark you, not mouthing—of the passage.

This city was favoured last week with a visit from Rev. Dr. McGlynn, of New York, who, under the auspices of the Anti-Poverty Society, for over two hours eloquently discoursed on the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man, his subject being "Individual Rights in a Model Commonwealth." Upon the postulate that nature's bounties were intended by the Creator to be free for all, he attempted to prove that the model commonwealth will own all the land and assume control of all transportation and banking concerns. If this were done poverty would be abolished and the millennium would be at hand. But is Dr McGlynn sure that as things now are poverty is increasing, or that the rich alone share in the comforts and conveniences of life which modern civilization has developed? The tendency seems to be all the other way. Is there any reason to expect that the rental value of land taken and applied as taxes would encourage farming operations, or in other words, the production of food? Possibly the farmer would think he was robbed under this system; and this would not hasten the millennium.

LATER information respecting the death of Mrs. MacMurchy, Foreign Secretary of our Woman's Foreign Missionary Society (W. D.), supplies the intelligence that the sad occurrence was occasioned not by drowning, as at first stated, but by a stroke of apoplexy which seized her just as she had stepped into the water. Though rescued almost immediately, and though long continued effort on the part of skilled medical attendance was made to restore her to consciousness, life was found to be extinct. The funeral took place on Wednesday afternoon, 7th inst., from the family residence, Sherbourne street, to Mount Pleasant Cemetery, and the large gathering assembled on the occa-

sion testified to the high regard in which the deceased lady was held by all classes of the community, and to the deep sympathy universally felt for the family in their bereavement.

BRITISH COLUMBIA has long felt the need of a Provincial University, and steps are being taken to found such an institution at an early day. At a public meeting held in the city of Victoria recently, Mayor Grant in the chair, the scheme was warmly supported by Rev. P. McLeod, Rev. D. Fraser and other citizens, and a resolution was adopted affirming the desirability of the establishment of a university, to be located in or near Victoria, and that a committee be appointed to draft a suitable scheme, and to report to a public meeting to be called by His Worship. Vancouver is also moving to secure the desired boon.

AMONG the distinguished visitors expected in this city this week are Rev. Prof. W. G. Blaikie, D.D., LL.D., of Edinburgh, and Rev. Dr. Monro Gibson, of London, the former on his way home from a visit to the United States, and the latter on a visit to his old home and relatives in Canada.

Literary Notices.

BITS ABOUT INDIA. By Mrs. Helen H. Holcomb, of Allahabad, India. Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath-school Work. 16mo; fully illustrated; pp. 272. Price, \$1.00.

This little book by the author of "Mabel's Summer in the Himalayas," is full of interesting facts about India, its people, its customs, its worship, its private and social life—the very things that tell really most concerning a country, and yet the very things that most writers are apt to overlook. The writer has long been a missionary resident of India, and is thoroughly familiar with the things of which she writes so pleasantly.

MR. ANDREW YOUNG, author of the hymn "There is a Happy Land," who is now eighty years of age, recently gave an address at a children's service in Edinburgh.

THE August Book Buyer contains a sketch of Harriet Prescott Spofford, with portrait, with capital letters on literary topics from London and Boston. The Book Buyer is always readable. [Chas. Scribner's Sons, New York.]

GEORGE BORROW'S *The Bible in Spain*, written in 1842, as the result of the author's travels in the Peninsula on behalf of the British and Foreign Bible Society, has been issued in Messrs. Ward & Lock's "Minerva Library" (2s.). A delightfully quaint and original book is thus placed within everybody's reach.

It is announced that a memorial volume in connection with Upper Canada College is in preparation. The volume will be compiled and edited with the assistance of old College boys, masters and friends of the Institution, by the Principal of the College, Geo. Dickson Esq. M.A., and Mr. G. Mercer Adam. The memorial volume in such hands will undoubtedly be an interesting book, and will do much to maintain the esprit de corps of a public educational institution of which the country has reason to be proud.

We have received a copy of "A Presbyterian Church Catechism" for the use of Families, prepared by the Rev. D. McMeekin of Ballymena, Ireland. It is a small pamphlet of 16 pages and is divided into four parts: "Presbyterianism"; "Of Presbyterian Church Government"; "Of the Worship of the Presbyterian Church"; "Of Presbyterian Church Doctrine." The Catechism is intended to supply an answer to the question, "Why are you a Presbyterian?" and it appears to us to fulfil the purpose of its author admirably.

THE following extraordinary passage has been discovered in a book till lately given as a prize in the Government Girl's School in Bombay: "The wife who gives an ugly answer to her husband will become a village parish dog; she will also become a female jackal and live in an uninhabited desert. The woman who eats sweetmeats without sharing them with her husband will become a hen owl living in a hollow tree. The woman who walks alone without her husband will become a sith eating sow. The woman who speaks disrespectfully to her husband will be dumb in the next incarnation. The woman who hates her husband's relations will become from birth to birth a musk-rat, living in sith." For the future this Hindoo combination will cease to have the sanction of the British Government. The husbands may well be tyrants whose wives have such maxims instilled into their minds.

THE contents of the August *Popular Science Monthly* are:—"The Spirit of Manual Training," by Prof. C. H. Henderson; "Agnosticism and Christianity," by Prof. T. H. Huxley, F.R.S.; "Life in the Solomon Islands," by C. M. Woodford—(Illustrated); "Scientific Charity," by A. G. Warner, Ph.D.;

"The Influence of Race in History," by M. Gustave Le Bon; "The Stone Age in Heaths Sweden," by W. H. Larrabee—(Illustrated); "Electrical Waves," by Samuel Sheldon, Ph.D.; "The 'Wastes of Modern Civilization,'" by Felix L. Oswald, M.D.; "Home-Made Apparatus," by Prof. John F. Woodhull; "The Defensive Armour of Plants," by M. Henry de Varnig; "Blood Vengeance and Pardon in Albania," by Herr J. Okie; "Mr. Mallock on Optimism," by W. D. Le Sueur; "Savage Life in South America," by Captain John Page; "Sketch of Lavosier" (with portrait). Editor's Table: "The Johnstown Disaster; Mental Growth from Manual Training; Bruno's Statue at Rome; Literary Notices. Popular Miscellany; Notes. [D Appleton & Co., New York.]

The *Magazine of Art* for August teems with "contemporaneous human interest." The frontispiece is an etching by MM. Massé and Withers after a painting, "The Passing Salute," by Mr. Tom Graham, a Scotch artist who has gained the attention of London. Current art is treated with critical pen by the Editor, and admirably illustrated. Mr. George Moor has something to say on "Art for the Villa," giving a blow to white marble statuary as he passes by. Ch. Francois Daubigny is the subject of this month's paper on "The Barbizon School," and a most attractive subject he is, as the illustrations would show if we had nothing else to provide. There is a full page engraving of Sir Joshua's "The Snake in the Grass" which was favourite of its painter, and with reason. "Maximilian I. is the subject of F. Mabel Robinson's paper on "Art Patrons." "John Brown the Draftsman" is discussed by J. M. Gray and illustrated by reproductions of his own drawings. And lastly, what is of very special interest to lovers of art, an account by Prof. Herkomer himself of his only recently produced play at Bushey, with illustrations from his own pencil. Home and Foreign Notes bring this interesting number to a close. [Cassell & Company, New York.]

THE August *St. Nicholas* begins with one of Mary Hallock Foote's inimitable drawings. It contains a full and interesting article by Dr. Jastrow, concerning the late Miss Laura Bridgman, with a portrait—an exceedingly good likeness. George Wharton Edwards' story, "Little Menan Light," will be found to furnish paths for the girl readers, heroism for the boys, and some excellent bits of character study for their elders—all will enjoy the illustrations. Miss Howells, already known by her sketches (a very pleasing one appeared in *St. Nicholas* for July), contributes a bit of verse called "Sweet Peas." Dr. Charles S. Robinson offers to mathematicians some curious speculations as to the present value of "An Egyptian Girl's Gold Necklace," if its value is regarded as having increased at compound interest for over 3,000 years. Those who care for good dialect stories will greatly enjoy "The Shag Back Panther," by Rowland E. Robinson, wherein appears a delicious Canadian who is most successfully caught in the pit he had dugged for another. It is strongly illustrated by C. T. Hill. Joaquin Miller tells a novel story of Western life, excellently illustrated by W. A. Rogers, and Mary E. Wilkins has a story in rather a new vein, entitled "The Little Persian Princess." But even these do not complete the list, for there are other pieces perhaps as worthy of mention, and the usual interesting departments, and all the delightful abundance of pictures, without which the magazine would not be *St. Nicholas* at all. [The Century Co., New York.]

A GENUINE midsummer number is *The Century* for August, with its opening article on "The Stream of Pleasure—The River Thames," by the Pennells—husband and wife—who have written about and minutely pictured that gay and thronged resort of boats and boaters. There are twenty pictures in this article alone. Mrs. Foote's "Afternoon at a Ranch" has also a midsummer air; and all inland vacationists will find matter of interest in Dr. Weir Mitchell's profusely illustrated article on "The Poison of Serpents,"—a line of inquiry in which he has made important discoveries. Rennington, artist and writer, describes with pen and pencil his outing with the Cheyennes; and a group of well-known wood engravers—French, Kingsley, Closson, and Davis—describe in their own language, and with drawings and engravings by each, a wood-engraver's camp on the Connecticut River, as well as the methods of the American school of wood engraving. A highly interesting chapter in the Kennan series describes "State Criminals at the Kara Mines." The frontispiece of this number of the magazine is a portrait of Alfred Tennyson from one of Mrs. Cameron's celebrated photographs; and in connection with this portrait the Rev. Dr. Van Dyke gives the results of his study of Tennyson's use of the Bible, under the title of "The Bible in Tennyson." Dr. Van Dyke incidentally discusses the relation of the English Bible to English literature. There is an unusual number of poems in the midsummer *Century*, including a long one by Robert Burns Wilson—"A Song of the Woodland Spirit"; and shorter pieces by Harry Stillwell Edwards, Mrs. Moulton, Frank Dempster Sherman, Celia Thaxter, and others. [The Century Co., New York.]

Current Opinion.

AMERICA AND THE SABBATH. It brings a blush to the cheek of the British visitor to Paris to find that the American section of the Exhibition is the only portion which is entirely closed upon the Sabbath. Those who have the direction of the exhibits of the United States have respected the sentiments of the American people and have maintained their principles in spite of personal pressure and the example of other nations.—*Glasgow Church Leader*.

A NEAT STORY. A NEAT story is told of a Roman Catholic priest in Victoria, whose sermons are usually of a practical kind. On entering the pulpit one Sunday he took with him a walnut to illustrate the character of the various Christian churches. He told the people the shell was tasteless and valueless,—that was the Wesleyan Church. The skin was nauseous, disagreeable and worthless—that was the Presbyterian Church. He then said he would show them the Holy Roman Apostolic Church. He cracked the nut for the kernel, and found it rotten! Then his reverence coughed violently and pronounced the Benediction.—*Halifax Witness*.

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT. A RECENT writer on the Ten Commandments makes this astonishing remark on the Fourth Precept: "Indeed, if we base the Sabbath on the Decalogue, I do not see but that we are bound to keep Saturday, and inflict the Mosaic penalty of death for Sabbath-breaking." By parity of reasoning, since we base the prohibition of idolatry on the first and second commandments, we are bound to inflict the Mosaic penalty of death on all idolaters. He must be a very inconsiderate person who does not see the difference between the Ten Words announced from Sinai and all the other precepts of the Pentateuch,—a difference deep and wide and lasting, one that appears not only in their mode of delivery, but in their scope and form and character. Men may take the Lord's Day off from the foundation of the Fourth Commandment, but in vain will they attempt to find or make another.—*Christian Intelligencer*.

VOTES OF THANKS. THE editor of the *Clinton New Era*, who is a good Methodist local preacher, fires the following hot shots into the ranks of the ministerial brethren:—"If ever the 'vote of thanks' business was run into the ground and made supremely ridiculous, it has been during the recent sessions of the Methodist Conferences. If some minister there read a paper or gave an address on some religious subject, he was straightway awarded 'a vote of thanks.' It is high time that men who profess to do 'all for the glory of God' should quit their child's play and foolishness, and act like human beings who realize their obligations. Life is too real and serious for vanities of this kind." Every one knows that ministers are not the only offenders in this line, and it is high time this unmeaning and senseless proceeding was stopped at all public gatherings, lectures, concerts, etc. In some cases it is right and fitting, as for instance, the vote of thanks passed by the Presbyterian General Assembly to Rev. Dr. Torrance, its Convener of the Committee on Statistics, but this was a recognition of faithful and continuous service for a term of years in an unenvying field. The abuse of it is what needs to be stopped.—*Guelph Mercury*.

THE FUGAL TUNE. THE day is past for a style of music for which the public ear has lost all sympathy. The grand old tunes which are both melodious and majestic, Old Hundred, Luthers' Hymn, Darwell's, etc., have never been superseded and never will be. These hold their own place in every modern collection by the best editors from Novello to Barnby. The "fugal tune" is not suitable for popular use, whatever Mr. Spurgeon may think. It never was anything else than an attempt to turn a hymn into an anthem. A congregation which could never master an anthem could find a substitute in a fugal tune; but now the musical education of the common people has advanced so far that we know of chapels where choirs of the poorest children can sing difficult anthems in first-rate style. Mr. Spurgeon very humorously puts aside the accusation against fugal tunes that ridiculous effects are produced by the repetitions of certain parts of a line. He does not believe a tithe of the silly stories hawked about, though he admits that ludicrous results may happen. Thus, if Darwell's be sung to the hymn which has the line "The year of Jubilee is come," the break in the tune would make the people seem to say "Billy is come." The subject is an interesting and important one. It seems to us useless to deny that there is a fashion in these matters. For instance, the popular culture of the "Sunkey" school of music has been the craze of certain classes, but people of musical education can never enjoy music of this class. Much less can they go back to the style of singing which was well illustrated by such tunes as "Denmark." We believe the reaction however, has been carried too far by fastidious organists and choirmasters, who have rejected so many rich and beautiful old tunes that they have largely led to the popularising of the flimsy and perishable music of revivalists. The introduction of a judicious and occa-