

to my family and to those who have had to do with me in business relations? This is a very serious question. The other, still more serious, is this—if I should suddenly be called away, how would the final account stand between myself and God?

—Rev. Dr. Reid who is a medical missionary of the Presbyterian church of Canada to the Galicians and Doukhobors of the Northwest, expresses a very high opinion of the Doukhobors. In a letter recently published in the Montreal Witness, Dr. Reid speaks of their beautiful Christ-like character, the high moral tone of their communities, their harmonious communistic life, their lessons to our own churches of their literal interpretation of the teachings of Jesus, and of the practical application of the principles of those teachings in the every-day lives of men and women. I have been studying all these amongst the Doukhobors, and have seen so much of the beauty of the Christ-life, manifested as they do manifest it, in love of neighbor, that I have at times found myself wishing that all the people of our own churches could only see their practical proof of the possibility of applied Christianity. The condition of the Galicians, both physically, morally and religiously, is much less satisfactory. They have come out of the serfdom of Austria and are suffering from many of the ills which are the concomitants of extreme poverty. There is much sickness among them, and not having the benefits of the more brotherly life of the Doukhobor communities, they too often suffer without the sympathy of their own countrymen. They need warm clothing for the winter and the ministry of experienced nurses as well as medical attention, and above all the knowledge of a New Testament gospel.

—Reference has recently been made in some of the daily papers, to the fact that an Act passed at the late session of the New Brunswick Legislature, entitled "An Act Relating to the Solemnization of Marriage," will come into effect on the first of November proximo. This new legislation, it is stated, requires that every person authorized to solemnize marriage in the Province of New Brunswick shall be registered in the office of the Provincial Secretary at Fredericton, and imposes a fine of one hundred dollars and a further penalty of six months imprisonment upon any person who shall perform the marriage ceremony without due registration. It will be seen that there are a large number of persons in the Province, principally ministers of the gospel, whom this new legislation affects very seriously. It also affects—perhaps with equal seriousness—that indefinite number of persons who may have marriage immediately in view, since there is at least a question whether a marriage performed by an unregistered clergyman would be a legal marriage. But probably very few persons in the Province knew, until attention was recently called to the fact by some newspapers, that there was such a law on the Statute Book, and it is not improbable that there are still ministers in the Province who are not aware that, unless they are duly registered under the Act at the Provincial Secretary's Office at Fredericton, they will, after November first, be legally disqualified, under heavy penalties, for performing the marriage ceremony. The law itself may be, and probably is, a very good one, as it will remove all question as to who is and who is not qualified under the law to perform marriage, but considering the very serious results of any failure, through ignorance or otherwise, to comply with its provisions, it must be regarded as a very grave oversight on the part of the Government that the attention of the public was not at an earlier date especially called to the fact that such a law had been enacted.

—After the above was in the printer's hands we received from Mr. Creed, Secretary of the Convention, the communication on this subject, which appears in another column and which will doubtless receive due attention from those interested.

Opening Lecture at Acadia.

The opening lecture of the College year was delivered last Monday evening in College Hall by Professor Ernest Haycock, M. A. The lecturer, as is already known, had served for two years, prior to June last, as instructor in the departments of Chemistry and Geology, and was at that time advanced to the position of professor in those departments. The theme of his lecture constituted an appropriate inaugural, and was entitled, "Tongues in trees, books in running brooks, sermons in stones, and good in everything", from a Geological stand-point. The treatment was broad and scholarly, yet admirably adjusted to the popular apprehension, while the literary form was felicitous in a very high degree. The whole lecture was a skillful and delightful opening up of the wonderland of geological study. It was listened to with great interest and pleasure, and was warmly applauded by the audience.

It is the growing impression that in Professor Haycock the College has added to its staff a man of fine ability and promise, a scientist of broad scientific mind, vitally interested in his chosen department, capable of original investigation, and calculated to develop marked strength as an investigator and teacher. It was with great satisfaction that those who listened to him on Monday evening were privileged not only to recognize the scholarly promise of the new professor, but also to hear from him explicit and reverent affirmations, in keeping with the spirit of Dawson, Agassiz, Dana, and the like, which finds the ultimate explanation of the marvels and sublimities of nature in the purposeful working of the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is over all, and through all, and in all.

While it was impracticable to have two inaugurals on the same night, the occasion was improved as an opportunity for introducing, at the close of the lecture, the second of the new professors recently added to the Faculty, Professor Cecil C. Jones, M. A., appointed in

June last Associate Professor of Mathematics and Physics. Two years ago Mr. Jones was appointed for a year as instructor in the department named. His work at once commended itself to the authorities and students as that of a fine scholar, a teacher of marked aptitudes and teaching power, an efficient disciplinarian, and altogether a strong noble type of the rising Christian teacher. The governors accordingly re-engaged Mr. Jones as instructor for a second year, and last spring unanimously advanced him to the position of Associate Professor. On rising to acknowledge the President's introduction, Professor Jones was most warmly received by the students and the public, and made a happy and appropriate speech. A lecture will be due from Professor Jones at some future date.

Under the circumstances one can hardly avoid remarking upon the strength and efficiency of the College Faculty. It may reasonably be questioned, I think, whether any college in the Dominion or elsewhere, with a staff of not more than ten professors, can claim to have a Faculty, sbler, more efficient, or more devoted than the Faculty of Acadia.

Wolfville, Oct. 13th.

T. TROTTER.

The Christian Culture Courses.

My attention has been called to a statement in your columns made by Bro. Morgan, Chairman National Committee on Young People's work, in connection with the abandonment of some C. C. Courses.

From the statement made one would receive the impression that the Ontario and Quebec Union was not in favor of the Courses outlined by the Chairman of the National Committee. In justice to our provincial Union I wish to state that they, as a Union, have not had a voice in the matter.

I was present when Brethren Morgan and Ratcliffe talked over a scheme of Courses proposed by Brother Morgan. It was an informal talk so far as I was concerned. The Courses seemed feasible but their effect on our connection with the B. Y. P. U. A., and other important considerations were not gone into. I was not in favor of breaking away from the Baptist Young People's Union of America. I was not to notify Brother Morgan of anything in connection with the matter. I definitely told the Chairman that nothing could be done on behalf of Ontario and Quebec until it had been before our Board of Managers. Also, that we intended to issue copies of the Bible Readers' Course to our Societies free of charge, and that I would therefore need to hear from him in plenty of time if anything was definitely decided by the committee. I received no word from the Chairman and we therefore issued our Readings as usual, as they had to be posted before the 1st instant. The idea of the Courses might have been abandoned for any information I had to the contrary.

It should be apparent to any leaders in our work that such an important matter should have careful consideration by the bodies empowered to act; the Maritime leaders were of that mind, for I noticed in the same number that it came before the Convention. Our Convention does not meet until next spring, the matter should therefore be considered by our Board and I doubt whether they could definitely deal with it. However, I received nothing official that I could bring before them.

I trust that you will give this letter the same publicity that was given to the statement referred to as at this time, when we wish to see a national spirit fostered, it would be unfortunate to have any misunderstanding.

Yours very sincerely,  
J. E. HOUSNOM,  
President B. Y. P. U. of Ontario and Quebec.  
Toronto, Oct. 8th.

N. B. Baptist Ministers' N. B.

SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGE.

Will the Baptist ministers resident in New Brunswick please take notice of the following facts and statements. The Legislature of this Province at its last session passed an important act relating to the solemnization of marriages, which act will go into operation on the first day of November next.

Under this act, all ministers or clergymen are required to be registered as such in the Provincial Secretary's office, according to a prescribed form, before proceeding to perform the marriage ceremony. Any marriage solemnized in this Province after the first of November by a minister not duly registered under the Act, will, by implication, be illegal; and any person who shall solemnize marriage or perform the marriage ceremony without first being registered as provided, will be liable to a penalty of one hundred dollars, and to imprisonment for six months.

A regularly ordained minister may have himself registered by making application to the Provincial Secretary in the form prescribed; or application may be made in his behalf (or in behalf of any number of such ministers) by "the ecclesiastical authority or authorities of the denomination of Christians" to which such ministers belong.

Now in the Roman Catholic, Episcopalian, Presbyterian

and Methodist bodies, the Bishop, the Moderator of the Synod or the President of the Conference has official knowledge of the names and residences of all the clergymen or ministers of his church, and can readily make the required application in their behalf. But in the Baptist denomination we have no such central authority, and there is no person whose office requires him to keep an official list, corrected up to date, of all our ministers, their residences and pastoral charges,—and whose duty it would be to see to this matter of registration. Many of our ministers may not be aware of the passage of the Act above mentioned, and of the necessity of their being duly registered; and such will be in danger of unwittingly violating the law and incurring the heavy penalty.

In view of these facts, it has been suggested to me that, as Secretary of the Baptist Convention of the Maritime Provinces, I should secure the registration of all the ordained Baptist ministers resident in this Province, so far as known to me, and thus perhaps prevent the occurrence of many illegal marriages.

This I have decided to do, on behalf of all the ministers whose names are on my list and who are not disqualified. The form of application requires the petitioner to certify that the persons named are duly qualified according to the rules of the denomination, are resident as described, and are "not engaged in any calling or occupation, secular or otherwise, than as aforesaid." I shall use the list in our Year Book for 1899, with such additions and corrections as I am able to make.

This application should be made, I am informed, before Wednesday, the 17th inst.

Every minister should procure a copy of the new Act referred to,—and those who have not registered themselves and who have reason to doubt whether their names are on my list, should refrain from solemnizing marriages after October 31st, until assured that they have been duly registered.

HERBERT C. CREED,  
Secretary of Convention.  
Fredericton, N. B., Oct. 13th, 1900.

New Books.

The Life of Lives. By F. W. Farrar, D. D., F. R. S., Dean of Canterbury. Toronto: William Briggs. Price \$1 50.

This new volume from the pen of Dean Farrar, may be regarded as in some sense supplementary to his "Life of Christ" published some twenty-six years ago, and certainly one of the most popular books of its class that has been written. The 444 pages of the present work is divided into forty-three chapters, with a quite full index of subjects and references to passages of Scripture referred to in the body of the book. Among the subjects which are dealt with in the different chapters are: "The Divine Birth," "The Unique Supremacy of Jesus," "The Testimony of Skeptics and of Free Inquirers," "The Human Education of Jesus," "The Home at Nazareth," "The State of Religion in Palestine," "The Condition of the World," "The Temptation," "Christ's Method of Evangelization," "The Form of Christ's Teaching," "The Substance of Christ's Teaching," "Christ's Condemnation of Pharisaic Religionism," "Christ and the Sabbath," "The Gladness and the Sorrow of Christ," "The Last Supper," "The Atonement," "The Resurrection," "The Final Issues." These subjects indicate a wide range of inquiry in which the winnowed results of Dean Farrar's thought will be received with great interest by every earnest student of the teaching of Jesus.

The Situation in China: A Record of Cause and Effect; By Robert E. Speer. Toronto: Fleming H. Revell Company. Price 15 cents.

The contents of this little book are here republished from a larger work entitled, Missions and Politics in Asia. It is not a discussion of the present situation in China as one would naturally interpret the phrase, but was written without reference to the present troubles in the East. Its aim is rather to give the western reader some idea, in a general way, of Chinese character, considered as to its virtues and defects, and Chinese methods of thought and action. It is of course only a glimpse that could be given within such limits as the size of the book imposes, but the glimpse given is both interesting and instructive. At this time when everybody is making some attempt to understand China, Mr. Speer's booklet will be found helpful, and will whet the appetite of the novice in such studies for more information concerning this very ancient and singular people.

As it was in the Beginning. By Edward Cridge. Fleming H. Revell Company; Toronto: Price 75 cents.

The object of the author is "to deduce from the very beginning of the Bible that all things were created by Jesus, and not only so but that by him or through him, as his Angel or Messenger, God ruled in the affairs of men in their divers dispensations." How far the author succeeds in this aim is for the reader to judge. To many, we are inclined to believe, it will seem that many passages are interpreted to support this theory which, to say the least, are as susceptible of other interpretations. A man with so lively an imagination as this author is endowed with can find almost anything in the Bible.

So: Or the Gospel in a Monosyllable. By George Augustus Lofton, D. D. Fleming H. Revell Company; Toronto. Price \$1.25.

The object of this volume, as described by its author, is "to emphasize the absolute necessity of 'Christ and Him Crucified,' the only remedy for sin; both in the efficiency of his atoning blood and the converting power of his Word." The discussion, he says, embraces simply "our old-fashioned theology in a new form." We cannot say that the new form is an improvement upon the old. The result is perhaps quite as good as could be expected from an author who would select an adverb as the title of a book on theology. The author may be capable of doing some things well, but a philosophical discussion of theological subjects is hardly one of them. If one wants to get a clear idea of the gospel teaching, it is much better to go to John or to Paul than to Dr. Lofton.