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Editorial.

ALEXANDER McLAREN'S BIBLE.

RYLANDS Library will doubtless attract many of our members during the forthcoming Baptist Assembly in Manchester. They should ask the librarian, Dr. Henry Guppy, for Dr. McLaren's annotated Bible, which last year was presented to the Library by the widow of Dr. McLaren's son. Of all the recent additions to Rylands, this small volume has most domestic interest for us. It is interleaved throughout, and was for many years the Doctor's constant companion. His copious annotations indicate that he probably commenced using it during his Southampton pastorate.

DR. JOHN MACNEILL

The Baptist Church has sustained a very heavy loss by the passing of Principal MacNeill, of McMaster University, at the early age of sixty-two. He will be remembered for his twenty-four years' pastorate at Walmer Road, Toronto; for his distinguished presidency of the Baptist World Alliance; for his principalship of McMaster: but among those who were privileged to be at the Albert Hall on Tuesday, July 18th, 1905, for the closing demonstration of the first Baptist World Congress, he will be remembered for a speech. He was then so little known outside his own country that delegates were enquiring, "Who is John MacNeill, who is to give the closing address of the Congress?" That speech gave him international fame.

Thirty-two years have passed, years of war, years of political upheavals, years that could hardly have been more crowded, yet the memory of his eloquence abides. Judge Willis, Herbert Anderson, E. W. Stephens and F. B. Meyer had spoken. Each had risen to the occasion and each had taken his allotted time. Then John MacNeill stood forth and so magnetised the immense audience that no one thought of leaving. Young and old alike were thrilled. Waves of emotion swept over the throng, as, in impassioned tones, the young orator, in speaking of the persistent attempt of the Papacy to fetter the educational system of Canada, uttered those terribly eloquent sentences: "Where did you ever see the serpent of Rome crawl, that it did not leave its trail upon the leaf a glittering slime, and in the field a useless furrow! Moreover, where did you see Rome at work that she did not move with all the subtlety of the serpent?"

THE ENGLISH BIBLE, 1538-1938.

From the beginning of 1935 representative committees have been at work considering proposals for the celebration of the Fourth Centenary of the Reformation in 1938. The commemoration is concerned primarily to focus attention upon the Bible. It was in 1538 that Thomas Cromwell issued the Injunctions ordering the parish clergy to provide "one book of the whole Bible of the largest volume in English, and the same set up in some convenient place within the said Church that ye have care of, whereas your parishioners may most commodiously resort to the same and read it; the charges of which book shall be rateably borne between you the parson and the parishioners aforesaid, that is to say, the one half by you, and the other half by them." (*Spelling modernized*).

The translation of the Bible into English was a decisive event in our national history. The Reformation centred around the Book, but, to our nation's loss, it does not now hold the same place in English life which it held formerly. The time is opportune for a recall to the Book that its spiritual treasures may be discovered anew. It is certain that the Word of God has a message for the problems of this age. We are glad therefore that Dr. Whitley has contributed the first of three articles on "Baptists and the Bible" to this number of the *Baptist Quarterly*. The second on "What Baptists have done for the Bible" will appear in July, and the third on "What Baptists have done with the Bible" in October.

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In connexion with the celebration various volumes dealing with the Bible are being written at the request of the Reformation National Council. *The English Bible under the Tudor Sovereigns* has just been issued. It is written by Dr. Whitley, and published by Marshall, Morgan & Scott, Ltd., in two editions, paper covers, 1s., and cloth, with seven plates specially prepared for the volume, 2s. 6d. A generation ago Dr. Whitley began the direct study of early Bibles, and at least one copy of every first edition has been examined by him. His thoroughness is apparent on every page, and it is obvious that he has delighted to do justice to Thomas Matthews' edition of 1537. The ampler knowledge that we have of Thomas Matthews is almost entirely the result of Dr. Whitley's researches.

We commend this volume most heartily, not only for its immediate purpose, but also for its permanent value to all Bible lovers.

ANDREW FULLER'S LETTERS.

Our member, the Rev. E. A. Payne, has already listed more than 350 of Andrew Fuller's letters. More than a third of these have, he thinks, never been published. There were several in the Isaac Mann Collection (*Baptist Quarterly, Vol. VII*), and many are at Furnival Street. He has also come across quite a number of individual manuscript letters in different places, and would be glad to hear from any of our members who may have letters (address: 19, Furnival Street, Holborn, E.C.4). A modern *Life* of Fuller, worthy to be placed with recent *Lives* of Carey, is overdue. These letters will be invaluable to the author.

NEW MEMBERS.

1937 has witnessed a further welcome addition to the membership roll of the Baptist Historical Society, and the following names should be added to the list published in January.

Libraries and Universities :

The Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, U.S.A.

Personal Members :

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