

Assembly Annals

F E B R U A R Y 1 9 4 2

MEMORIAL NUMBER

Wm. J. McClure

Evangelist and Teacher

BORN

December 25, 1857

DIED

December 6, 1941

CONTENTS:

A Faithful Minister, Dr. H. A. Cameron	ii
Life and Labours, J. T. Dickson	43
A Word to Preachers, W. J. McClure	48
Personal Glimpses, W. J. Pell	56
Portraits of Mr. McClure and Fellow Laborers Insert	59-70
In the Mission Field, Donald M. Hunter	72
Mr. McClure's Last Public Message	75
Funeral Services	77
Address by J. T. Dickson	78
Address by W. P. Douglas	81
Address by William M. Rae	83
At the Grave, D. Charles	85
God's Good Pleasure, W. J. McClure	86
The Highest and Lowliest, W. J. McClure	iii
"With Christ", Joseph of the Studium	iv

Remember them that had the rule over you,
who have spoken unto you the word of God;
whose faith follow, considering the end of their
conversation.

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today,
and forever.

Heb. 13:7, 8.

Assembly Annals

Entered as Second Class Matter at the Post Office, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Published monthly by Assembly Annals, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Subscription Price: \$1.00 per annum (1.25 Canadian and Foreign).

"A Beloved Brother and Faithful Minister"

"Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God and escheweth evil?"

That the Lord should select for His divine commendation such men as Job, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David and Daniel is marvellous in our eyes, but it reveals to us that even here and now our Lord graciously anticipates that day when He shall say to His servants "Well done."

W. J. McClure was one who faithfully served his own generation. Over sixty years ago he grasped with a firm grip the lighted torch extended to him by those who preceded him in the Christian relay race, and now, having finished his part of the course, he has handed intact that light which he received, to the generation following.

As a servant of Christ he was a living example of the Preacher in Ecclesiastes 12:9. By wise words, words of truth, and acceptable words, he taught the people knowledge. His oral and written ministry so commended itself to the conscience in the sight of God that we know its source to have been the One Shepherd. To the young men of the generation following we would urge a careful study of his "Word to Preachers," with the hope that it will stimulate them to emulate him in faith and works, for thereby, if the Lord be not come, their testimony would be, like his, a hundred-fold more in this present time, and fruit gathered to life eternal.

As one who listened to Mr. McClure's ministry with deep appreciation, we can testify to its unique presentation, its scriptural accuracy and its wholesome edifying character. His preaching was not "spoonfuls of truth and bucketfuls of words" but the very opposite, for preeminently he could give "much in little", a condensation of the essentials in the fewest necessary words, and words withal easy to be understood.

Happily for us, he has left a rich heritage of sound doctrine by which in days to come we shall still hear him, though dead, yet speaking. May it be ours to listen, learn, obey, and thus adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

—H. A. Cameron

Assembly Annals

Old Series
Vol. XVI — No. 2

February, 1942

New Series
Vol. IX — No. 2

The Life and Labors of

W. J. McClure

NOTES COMPILED BY MR. JOHN T. DICKSON

Mr. McClure was born of humble parentage. He first saw the light of day on December 25th, 1857, in the town of Banbridge, Ireland. Soon after his birth he was taken by his parents to the parish church, called Seapatricks, where he was "christened" and given the name of William John. His father, Mr. Simpson McClure, was a well-known tradesman in the town, carrying on the business of a blacksmith. He was known throughout the rural districts as an expert in making ploughs. At an early age William John left school and worked at the anvil with his father.

CONVERSION TO CHRIST

The story of his conversion, as related by himself in 1936, is as follows:

"The year 1874 will be long remembered by numbers in the British Isles, but by none more gratefully than the writer. In that year the mighty power of God was seen in the awakening and conversion of many precious souls, in the various walks of life, but was especially fruitful in the conversion of young men, who afterwards devoted their lives to the gospel in the home and foreign fields. Moody and Sankey came over from America, and were not only used directly in the salvation of many, but indirectly in the salvation of many more, through stirring believers up to more activity in the gospel.

"I was then a lad in my 16th year, a regular attendant of church and Sunday School, but like most lads of my age, utterly unconcerned about eternity. I was in the fairway of getting into a life of vice and drunkenness, from the example of the men with whom I worked.

"My eldest sister was living in Belfast, while our family was living in Banbridge. She was a church member, had been confirmed and took the communion. As a result of the

visit of Moody and Sankey, many cottage meetings were held, addressed by working men. My sister attended one of these and the man who conducted it was evidently a faithful child of God, and spoke from the text, "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." (Rev. 20:15). That text took a tremendous hold of her. She had been confirmed and her name was on Seapatrik Church Roll, but she did not know that it was in the book of life. There had never been a time in her life when as a lost guilty sinner she accepted Christ as her Saviour. Her peace was gone, and only when she came to Jesus and rested on His finished work did she get peace and the consciousness that her name was in the Lamb's book of life. (Rev. 21:27). Her letters home were used of God to awaken me, and for some weeks I was afraid I might die and go to hell, and my one desire was to know my sins forgiven. There was then some activity in the church I attended, and the weekly Lenten lectures were a little different to what was customary. The subject of one week would be, "A Word to the Anxious." The next week it might be, "A Word to the enquirer." I listened most attentively, but never got anything, it was too long range for me, and I went on for weeks without peace. I had a little testament and I pored over it in my bedroom and when I got an opportunity during the day.

"Deliverance came at last. Through 1 Peter 2:24, "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree," and Isaiah 53:5-6, I got just what I needed. But such was my state of anxiety, as I prayed for forgiveness in my bed room, that I was looking for some sign that I was saved. When I looked to the sky if I had seen, or thought that I saw the words, 'W. J. McClure you are saved,' I would have been very happy, it would have been a sign such as I was looking for, it would have been my assurance.

"Thousands of times I have thanked God that nothing like that occurred, as that assurance would not have lasted long. If soon after my conversion I had met another W. J. McClure, instantly the question would have arisen, 'Did those words refer to you or to him?' And away would go my peace and assurance. But I saw in John 3:16 a word which would take us both in, and everybody else, it was that grand word "WHO-

SOEVER". The 16th verse of John 3 was not so well-known sixty years ago as it is today, and it was after my conversion that I enjoyed its blessedness.

"About two months ago in Tokyo, Japan, a native believer put it in a way that struck me; he said that John 3:16 was the Fujiyama of the New Testament. Fujiyama is the highest mountain in Japan. Now it happened that just then I was able to see how very appropriate was the simile. On my way a day or so before I was on the train between Peiping and Yokohama. Sitting one beautiful sunny morning looking out, all at once there stood out that majestic mountain Fujiyama, grand and sublime, towering above the forests 12,341 feet, glistening white in the morning sun. It was a sight worth going far to see, and illustrates the outstanding grandeur of John 3:16."

HIS EARLY CHRISTIAN LIFE

The young convert came under the influences of godly men who helped him much. In 1875 Messrs. James Campbell and James Smith were greatly used of God while preaching in a gospel tent in the city of Belfast. At the age of 18 years, William John was brought into contact with them and with another servant of Christ, Mr. David Rea, and he was much helped by their ministry. The stirring messages of Mr. Rea, a mighty warrior of the Cross, and the godly care of the Lord's people, resulted in his being baptized as a believer and received into the assembly meeting in Old Lodge Road Gospel Hall.

The truth of gathering in the Name of the Lord Jesus was a great revelation to him. Being very studious, and with the Bible as his constant companion, its teachings molded his whole life and became the mighty incentive which gave him a powerful influence over the lives of others.

EMIGRATION TO AMERICA

In 1880 when he was 23 years old Mr. McClure crossed the ocean coming to America for the first time. Arriving in Chicago he found employment in the "Deering Harvester Company." He sought out the assembly in Chicago, and became associated with the late Mr. Donald Ross, whom God was using greatly in leading sinners to Christ and saints "outside the camp." Mr. Robert Telfer who was employed in the

same city, was also in the assembly. This earnest young gospel-er became a friend and companion of Mr. McClure. Through the aged veteran, Mr. Ross, who counseled and taught them in the ways of God, both Mr. Telfer and Mr. McClure were called about the same time to go forth in His Name to preach the glorious gospel.

LABORS IN ONTARIO

Mr. McClure's first field was Ontario, Canada, and there in Kensington in the year 1884, he met a young man named W. P. Douglas, who had been in the Lord's work for a few years. They were greatly drawn to each other, and Mr. McClure suggested that they link up together in service. They were true yoke-fellows, sharing alike the hardships and trials as well as the joy that such a path brings to the servants of Christ. They labored fervently, travelling on foot through the snows in winter time, preaching in halls and school rooms; and during the summer in a canvas tent. The Lord worked with them, souls were saved, and assemblies were planted, which continue to this day.

CALIFORNIA

In 1890 Mr. McClure crossed the continent with the object of preaching the gospel in the large State of California. His fruitful labors over a period of several years require more space than that at our disposal, but we hope to take these up later.*

TRAVELS AND WRITINGS

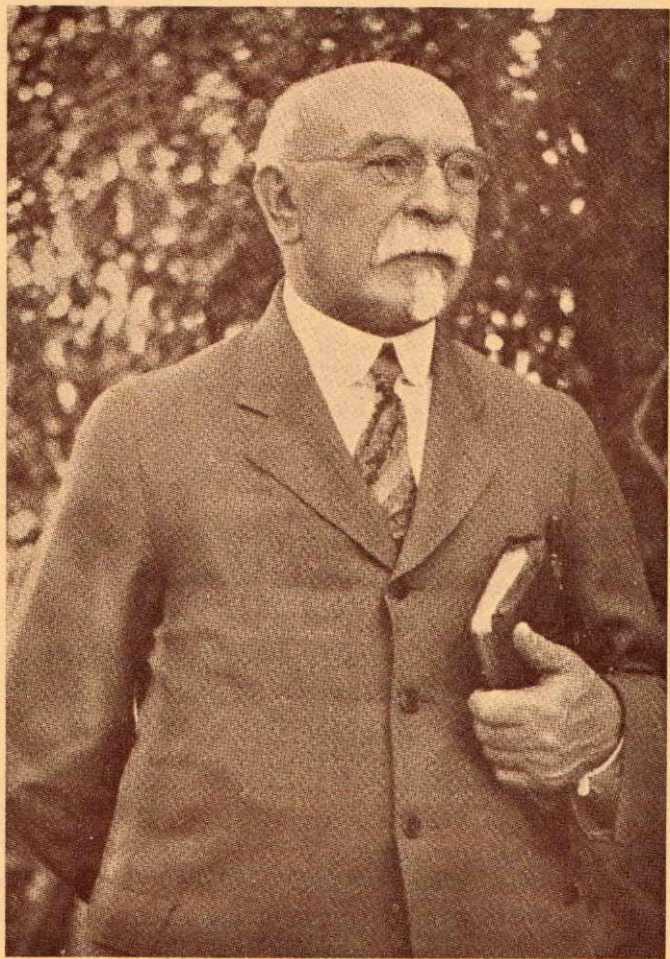
In his later years Mr. McClure traveled extensively to S. Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Palestine, and the British Isles. In all these countries he ministered the Word with acceptance and blessing, seeking to build up what God had wrought; maintaining assembly truths such as he had learned at the beginning.

During his last visit to his native land, the large auditorium in the Y. M. C. A., Belfast was rented by the assemblies. He held meetings there for four weeks, speaking on the Tabernacle. 2,000 people thronged into the hall night after night, and the ministry worked effectually. At that time there was a great stir in Northern Ireland because of heresy dark as Modernism being taught by a Presbyterian professor, and Mr. McClure had a great opportunity, which he used to good advantage, in

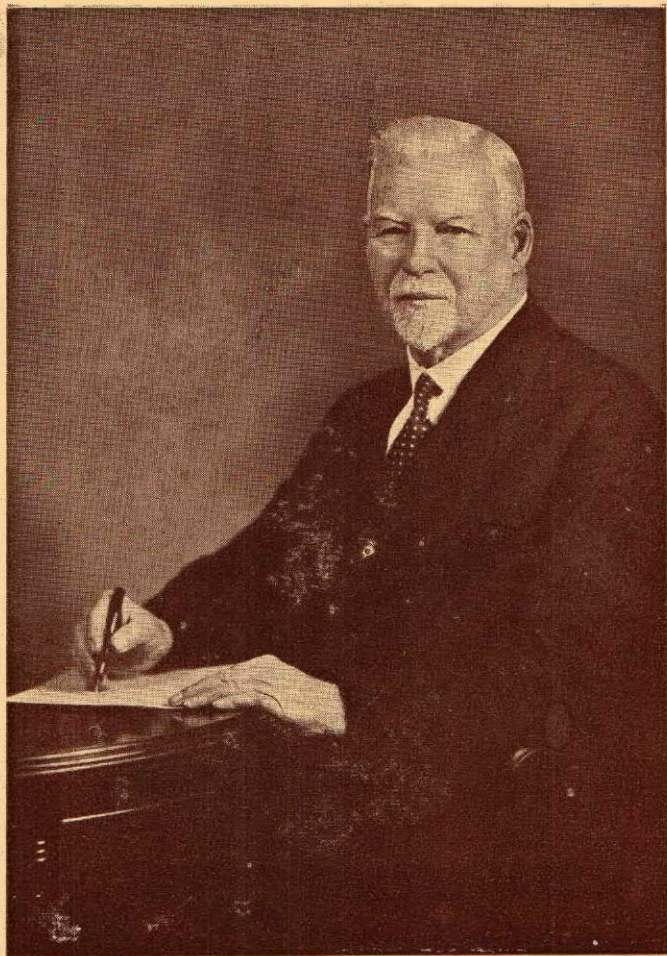
FELLOW LABORERS



MR. W. J. McCLURE AND MR. W. P. DOUGLAS
1939



W. J. McCLURE



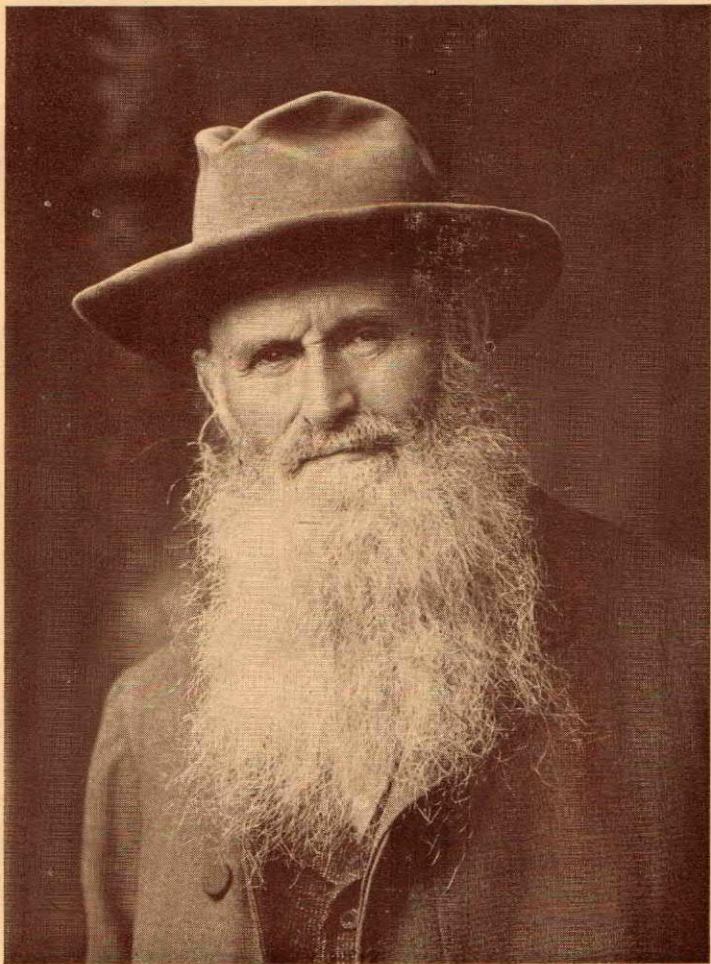
T. D. W. MUIR



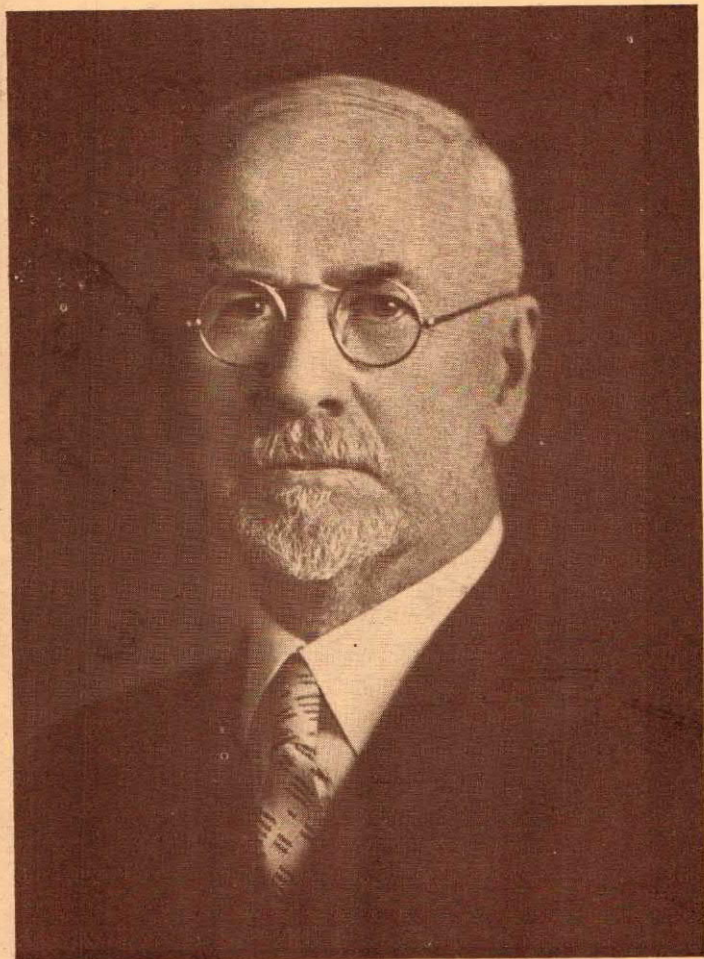
W. J. McCLURE—ALEXANDER MARSHALL—ROBERT TELFER
1890



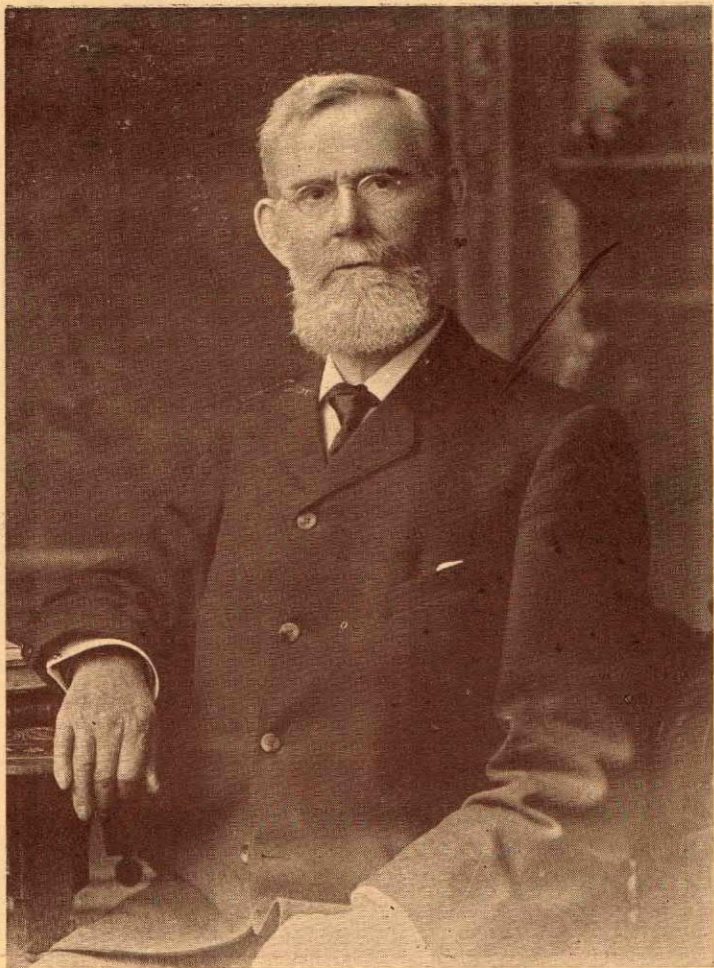
ROBERT TELFER



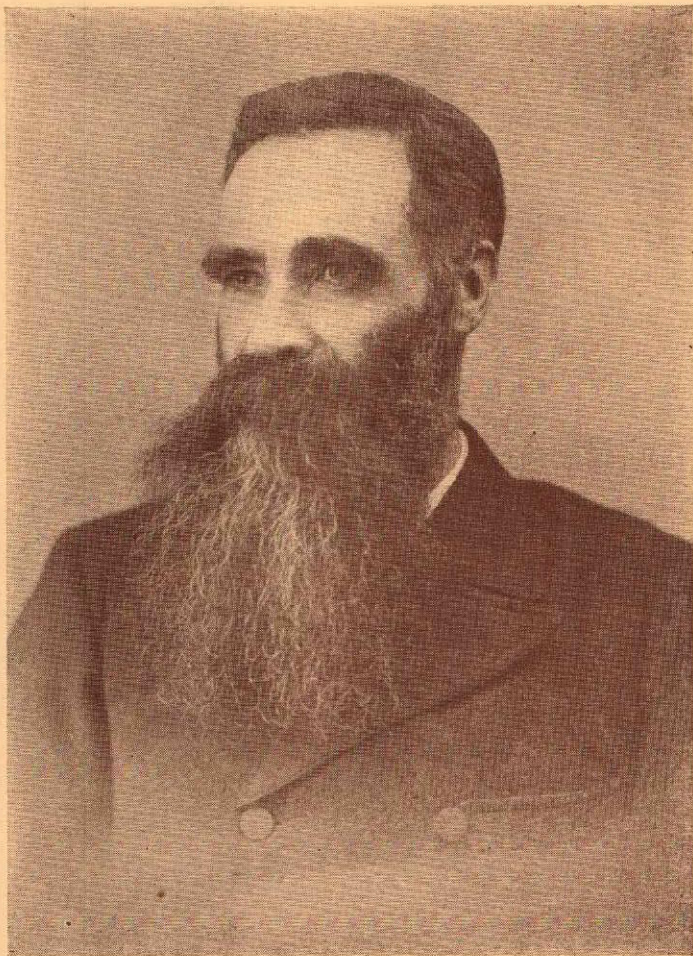
DONALD ROSS



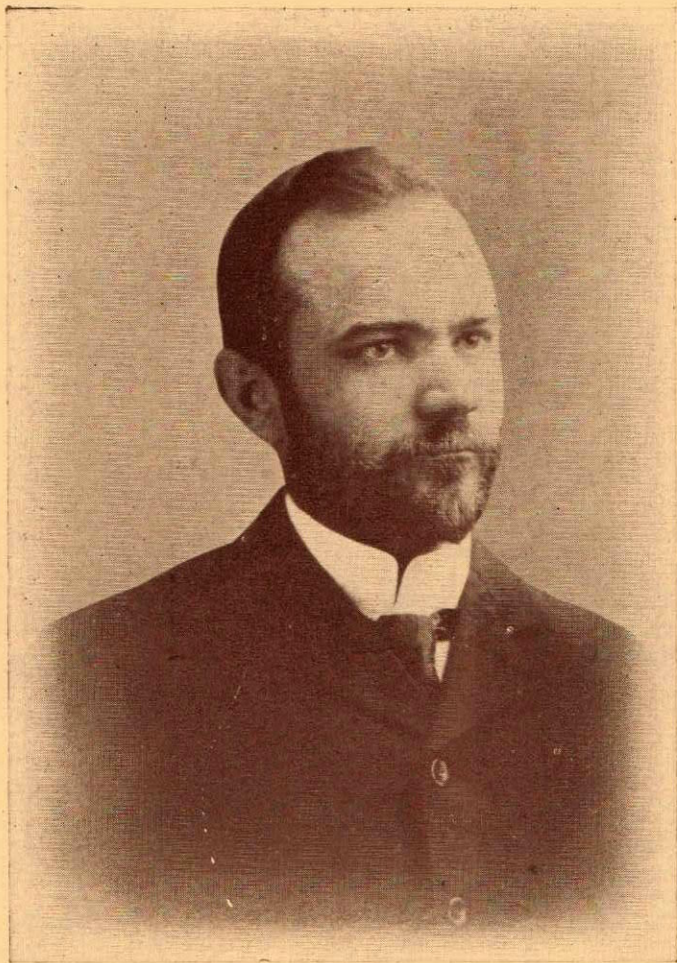
C. W. Ross



DONALD MUNRO



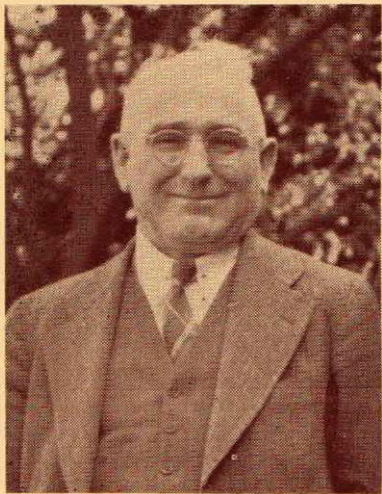
JOHN SMITH



DR. E. A. MARTIN
TAKEN IN 1910



JOHN M. CARNIE



SAMUEL GREER

Two dear brethren known to me and long since gone home, were walking by the shores of Ireland. One of them began reciting Psalm 95 (for they almost thought in Scripture words in the old days) and when he came to the word "The sea is His" the old brother walking by his side said, "And mine also." Isn't it grand to think that all that is ahead, all that is yet to be revealed of His wondrous glory, is already ours by faith? We are waiting for the time when it will be a reality.

* * * * *

I remember at some meetings we held, there was present a cultured lady, some of whose friends had been saved. She was "in society," and card parties were her especial pleasure. One night, after the meeting, at which she listened well, she said to me, "You know I could never give up my cards." "But," I answered, "we have been saying nothing about 'giving up' but 'receiving.'" She continued to come to the meetings and the Word of God took hold of her, and then, though not yet saved, she would as soon have taken poison as touch cards. Why? If any professes to be exercised as to his soul, and still takes pleasure in sin, it is wasted time to speak to that man. But when the Spirit of God takes hold of his conscience, it will wean him from all such.

* * * * *

I can never forget visiting a dear sister who was a deaf mute and who lived upon a little orange ranch. She was cut off from contact with the world, indeed all her life she was cut off by not hearing just as much as Fanny Crosby was by not seeing. She was neither able to speak nor to be spoken to, but she seemed to live really in the second of Acts. She was so ignorant of the terrible condition that exists among believers and the difficulties that have been so frequent, that it never disturbed her peace. She just thought things were in the same condition now as they were in the second of Acts. I remember when she conducted me to the gate of the little ranch just as I was leaving, with her face beaming, she made two or three sign movements with her hand that illustrated the matter more clearly than my speaking for half an hour would have done. "He is coming—the trumpet—we go up." And her face was radiant. Oh wouldn't it be great if that were the case with all of us?

William J. McClure in the Mission Field

Donald M. Hunter

A missionary is *a sent one*, and, as such, usually a servant of God who is sent to some one part of the field where because of practical reasons he labors for an indefinite period. In his early years, Mr. McClure did intensive work in towns and cities in Canada, United States, and New Zealand and as a result of his labors, sometimes alone, sometimes with others, by the grace of God, local churches were founded and strengthened. In later years His Master chose him for special missions, and he took long journeys in obedience to his Master's will. Some of these took him to the far-flung battle lines of Europe, Asia, and Africa where he brought cheer and encouragement to lonely workers, and inspiring messages to Christians. In the words of Paul he could write to saints in many parts of the world — China, Japan, Palestine, South Africa, New Zealand — “we came even as far as unto you in the Gospel of Christ” (2 Cor. 10:14). Like Paul, Mr. McClure was sometimes troubled, sometimes perplexed, sometimes cast down, sometimes spoken against, but none of these things moved him. It was not easy going; there were times when he was unable to get good traveling accommodations, and good food, there were times when he had but little money in his purse, yet he was always liberal in giving. In spite of heartaches and obstacles, he went on ministering Christ.

When Mr. McClure came to Peking in the spring of 1936, he came in the fulness of the blessing of Christ. How far-reaching can be a single message spoken for God in the power of the Holy Spirit! Mr. McClure was in Peking for only one Sunday. Early that Sunday morning about fourteen believers met to remember the Lord and to announce His death. Most of the Chinese present understood English, so when Mr. McClure ministered, an interpreter was unnecessary. That morning Mr. McClure read Luke 22:7-20. His subject was “the Upper Room” and from his text he clearly taught the privilege and the responsibility of being steadfast in the participation of the Lord's Supper. Although the meeting was exceptionally enjoyable, I soon forgot the details of it, but there was one Chinese brother present who did not forget Mr. McClure's Christ-exalting message. Just a few months before I left China

in 1940, this dear brother, Dr. Hsu Wen Chen, presented me with a new Chinese hymn book which he had just compiled. In it he had included a few hymns of his own composing and he pointed out two special hymns to me. The first was one he had written to be used at a Baptismal service, the second to be used when saints meet together at the Lord's Supper. As I read the second one, the thoughts seemed strangely familiar. I looked at Dr. Hsu, and saw a merry twinkle in his eyes. Upon reading it again, it all came back to me. It was Mr. McClure's message. Dr. Hsu had remembered all Mr. McClure had said three or four years before when together we were gathered around our Lord Jesus Christ, and when he prepared his hymn book, he set down Mr. McClure's message in the form of a Chinese hymn. Thus that meditation given in the Spirit years ago, is now being sung by Chinese believers as they come together simply and scripturally to break bread in fond remembrance of their Lord.

But to return to the Sunday when Mr. McClure was in Peking, after the Lord's Supper we went to a large Chinese Gospel meeting. The little hall was packed with about three hundred Chinese, and though the day was cold and the wind keen, another hundred sat outside in the courtyard. It must be said, however, that it was not Mr. McClure's presence which attracted this great crowd, for every Sunday that building and courtyard are jammed—because the Word of God is being preached in power by Mr. Wang Ming Tao. But Mr. McClure had great liberty that Sunday morning, and his interpreter Mr. Wang Ming Tao had equal liberty. It was perfect team-work guided by the Spirit. Mr. McClure preached the Gospel, using the record of John the Baptist as his subject. After the meeting was over, Mr. McClure, Mr. Wang, and I were standing together when a Chinese woman of about thirty-five came to us with a look of peace and joy in her countenance. She said in Chinese, "I have been coming to church for ten years, but this morning as you were preaching I came to Christ!"

Besides these two memorable meetings, Mr. McClure spoke at three others while in Peking. Another Chinese lady professed to be saved, and the believers were encouraged by his messages. Discerning Chinese Christians were struck with the

rare depth of Mr. McClure's spirituality. The great missionaries of all the centuries have been great saints. In the Orient, the Christians soon know whether a missionary is a man of God. If he is not, his eloquence, his untiring labors, his clever sermons, his writings are all a vain show of the flesh. On the other hand, even though he may be a quiet unassuming worker and poor speaker, if Christ is seen in a missionary he exerts a tremendous influence. Such a man was William J. McClure, and in Peking he left an indelible impression.

In my little Chinese home during those few days, Mr. McClure and I prayed together, we read the Bible together, and we talked together. One day when we were discussing books, he told me at great length how helpful he had found "Notes on the Pentateuch" by C. H. Mackintosh. When a young Christian he had read them carefully, and he confessed that they had greatly enriched his preaching. "Read C.H.M.'s notes and you will never lack material for your messages."

Another day we were discussing things ecclesiastical, when he revealed to me how he began to walk the beautiful and pleasant path—may we call it the path of simply following the Scriptures as to local church affiliation—which he walked undeviatingly for about sixty years. After he was saved he wanted to find a good church in Belfast where he was employed. For a number of Sunday mornings he visited various churches. Not one of them met the desire of his heart, though, doubtless, some of them were truly evangelical and we thank God for all such. He was becoming rather discouraged when one Sunday morning he found himself in front of the assembly hall in Belfast. A sign indicated that there would be a "breaking of bread" service. He went in and he sat enthralled throughout the meeting as the glories of Christ were revealed to his heart in the power of the Holy Spirit. He had found a place where that One whom he adored was blessedly present, and from that morning until his home-call every Sunday morning when able he met with Christians who in a simple and apostolic manner break bread in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in His name alone. And since that first Sunday morning, through his instrumentality some assemblies have been founded and many others have been strengthened.

From the inauguration of the church, God has never failed

to provide gifts. We are thankful to Him for giving us Mr. McClure who truly was a beloved and gifted teacher. The Lord in wisdom has taken home that gifted one and we say in the words of Job "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." He is silent now, and others are thus needed who will sound forth the cardinal truths of the Gospel. To be used of God in this work means self-denial; it means much time spent in prayer and Bible study; it means complete yielding to the will of God. May the homecall of Mr. McClure stir each of us to holy action.



Mr. McClure's Last Public Message

WORDS SPOKEN AT THE CONFERENCE IN BETHANY GOSPEL HALL, OAKLAND, CALIF., NOVEMBER 21st, 1940.

Psalm 127

This Psalm was not written to stir up more activity. In these days of such a nervous pace and concern about the things of time, many of the Lord's children lose fellowship with God in their effort to secure these things. The world believes in building the house, but "except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." Thank God for what follows in these verses. "It is vain for you to rise up early and to sit up late." The Lord puts his people at rest and gives them a sense of repose in Himself. While resting in Him, He provides for their needs, whatever they are, the needs of the body, or the needs of the soul. Instead of our becoming nervously occupied and busy, he says, "Rest in me." He "giveth his beloved sleep."

Thank God we may know that in actual experience. Nearly 60 years ago, in following the Lord's Word, I gave up my position in a large place in Chicago. Mr. Donald Ross in talking to young men who desired to serve the Lord urged them to go forth looking to the Lord for only bed, food, and washing. In 1882 I went out in the Lord's work altogether and I was surprised to get more than just bed, food and washing. The Lord provided more than these to meet the needs we must find in the world. As the years went by there were things that tried us, but we always found love enough. If we had the power to choose over again, we believe

by the grace of God we would do as we did—trust Him and find Him faithful. Thanks be to God we are found in Him, and He is faithful. Years ago when strong in body and able to go around we were cared for, and now, as an old man, broken in health and unfit for the things that we once did, what do we find? Not a care as to our path, and not a care as to our need. The Lord just seems to take it all in hand and we find the truth of that word "He giveth His beloved sleep." He provides for them, and thank God, that is to be the way right to the end.

I know the need of this Psalm and I give you this portion of God's Word as something I enjoy and desire by the grace of God we should know in these meetings. May the Lord grant that this conference of 1940 may go down as one of the best we have ever had,—not that we are better prepared, but that He is able. The nervousness that leads people to do this and that is not needed. He provides for His people who trust in Him. They rest in Him and He does everything else. May this Psalm speak to us for His Name's sake.



What shall it profit?

At an open air meeting in Detroit, Mr. McClure attracted and held a crowd and while preaching the gospel he told this personal experience somewhat as follows:

"One day, while sailing on the ocean, our ship-officers discovered a derelict, flying the flag of distress, and immediately lowered a boat to go to the relief of the mariners on the wreck. They were just in time and got all the men safely on board our steamer. After a little I observed the captain of the doomed vessel standing at the rail looking intently at his slowly sinking craft. When at last it took the final plunge and disappeared into the depth of the ocean the captain evidently bowed with grief turned away from the sight. I approached him to show my sympathy and asked, "Sir, were you interested in that vessel?" "Yes," he said "All I had was tied up in that boat. With her loss has gone everything I possessed." What about your interests, my friend? When death at last claims you, what I ask have you staked your soul's welfare upon? Where is that eternal soul of yours resting for everlasting life?

Notes Taken at the Funeral Services

Held December 11, 1941 at the Grant A. Miller Mortuaries

Hymn

"A little while", No. 14, Believers' Hymn Book, verses 1,3,4.

Prayer by Mr. M. H. Douglas

Our God and Father, Thou Who art the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we come into Thy presence this afternoon, conscious of the fact that we have read in Thy Holy Word that "It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting; for that is the end of all men: and the living will lay it to his heart." But while we are gathered together, this afternoon, in the house of mourning it is not as those who have no hope, for we thank Thee, our gracious God and Father that Thou hast revealed to us the blessed truth of resurrection. And as we are here to lay away the body of our beloved brother Mr. Wm. John McClure, we thank Thee for our ever having known him. We thank Thee for ever knowing the grace of God to him and by him. We thank Thee for every remembrance of him, as a true servant of God, and a faithful minister of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thou hast taken him home after many years of fruitful service for Thy glory. We know that now he is with the One Whom he served so long and so acceptably and into Whose presence he so earnestly desired to go during the years of his suffering. We pray Thee also that Thou wilt speak to any unconverted persons gathered here with us. May they hear Thy voice saying to them, "Set thy house in order; for thou shalt die and not live." We pray that Thou will send help from the sanctuary and give us strength out of Zion. May Thy Word as it is ministered, come with blessing from above. Remember especially the family with whom our beloved brother made his home for many years. The Lord bless, we pray Thee, that happy abode. Remember for good the head of that house in his present weakness, cheer the heart of his beloved wife, and in Thy grace may all the prayers before Thee on behalf of those still out of Christ be answered. What we have failed to ask Thee, fail Thou not in granting, for we ask all in the precious holy name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Address by Mr. J. T. Dickson.

Shall we read together II Samuel 3, verses 31, 32, 38, 39. "And David said to Joab, and to all the people that were with him, 'Rend your clothes, and gird you with sackcloth, and mourn before Abner.' And the king, David himself, followed the bier. And they buried Abner in Hebron; and the king lifted up his voice and wept at the grave of Abner; and all the people wept. And the king said unto his servants, 'Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel? And I am this day weak, though anointed king'."

When the news reached me in Detroit, last Lord's day morning, by wire that our beloved brother Mr McClure had passed into the presence of the Lord the afternoon before, I had mingled feelings, as I thought, that a great life was thus brought to a close; and then there came to mind these words spoken long ago, when one of Israel's sons was buried by none other than his sorrowing king. David, like others that day, stood at the bier, weeping brokenhearted, because of his loss of the one that was gone, and then he uttered these words to his servants, "Know ye not that a prince and a great man is fallen this day in Israel?"

It is not my purpose this afternoon to say much about Abner or about his noble life and the sad circumstances under which he was taken away. Suffice to say, he was a captain in the armies of Saul. He was a man that had a great interest in the kingdom and he spent his last days in diligent efforts to bring the people of Israel under the sway of David, God's anointed king. And David, who had watched him, and knew his value, felt weakened by the loss of such a man, and he summed up the life of Abner as "a prince and a great man." Now, a prince is one of noble birth, and as such one who has been well trained and molded in his youth; a man that has high ideals and is outstanding among his fellows; a leader and one to be imitated. I am sure, dear friends, that as we think about our dear departed brother Mr. McClure, these words are very fitting—"A prince and a great man". Mr. McClure's greatness all sprang, we might say, from one very important event that transpired in his life, whereby he became a man of noble birth. I do not refer to his birth on Christmas day in 1857, where he was born after the flesh, the son of Mr. and

Mrs. Simpson McClure, but I speak of another birthday that he had sixteen years later, when his young heart was opened as he listened to the wondrous story of Calvary. It was upon that day when he rested his all for eternity on the finished work of Christ, that he experienced the new birth. I would like at this moment, to speak to any who may be here unconverted, for the truth that made such a change in Mr. McClure (the outcome of which has been seen and felt in many lands), is worth special mention, and we know it would be in accordance with the wishes of our departed brother that the gospel that he loved to proclaim so well to men and women should be told out to those in this audience who know not his Saviour. "Be it known unto you, therefore, that through this Man, Christ Jesus, is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins." By simple faith in the Lord Jesus Christ you may have the forgiveness of all your sins this afternoon and leave this service rejoicing that your name is written in heaven.

As a new born babe in Christ, William J. McClure desired the sincere milk of the Word. He read it carefully and prayerfully and it wrought effectually in his life. Very soon after his conversion in the city of Belfast, Ireland, he was brought under the ministry of great men of God such as David Rea, James Smith and James Campbell. There he listened to their stirring messages and through their ministry he was brought to see the truth of gathering in the precious name of the Lord Jesus Christ. He took his place with the assembly of that city, known as the Old Lodge Road Gospel Hall, which I think was the only assembly in the city at that time. The truth he learned and loved and practiced then was a stay to him all through his life.

Mr. McClure was a *deep student* of the Holy Scriptures, and that was wherein his great strength lay, for what he learned he made his own and obeyed. He was like one of that noble band in the days of Ezra who were *put in trust* with the precious vessels of the temple to bring them from Babylon to Jerusalem where they were to be weighed in the balances of the sanctuary, for spiritually this would remind us of the exhortation, "Guard that which is committed to thy trust"; and this Mr. McClure sought to do.

As a *gospel preacher* he excelled above many. We have with

us today Mr. W. P. Douglas, one of his first fellow-laborers, and he will be able to tell you better than I of his beginnings as a herald of the cross.

And as a *teacher* Mr. McClure had few equals. There was nothing fanciful or sentimental in his ministry but he sought to get down to the deep things of God's blessed Word and to give the sense thereof. He was a real expositor. In dealing with a difficult subject he had the faculty of making it so simple and lucid that the people of God could take it in and profit thereby for years to come. Truly a prince and a great man is fallen today in Israel. Some would say he has not fallen but is promoted. That is true. But while it gives us real joy to know that he is promoted to the Lord's presence, yet, as to his service and his help, we mourn his loss.

I can look back to my first acquaintance with our dear brother McClure. It was in 1904 at the Lurgan Conference and in his address that day he desired to help young Christians, and to illustrate his point he spoke of Timothy as a disciple of the Lord, and as one who labored with Paul in the gospel. In this he demonstrated his gift as a shepherd, who had the natural care for the people of God. In 1916 I became more intimately acquainted with him and still more in the summer of 1917 when he came to Nova Scotia for the first time and he and I together preached the gospel in a tent in Sydney. On Saturday and Sunday nights he loved to proclaim the good news in the open air. His ministry was greatly blessed and souls were saved that year. Since then he has been like a father to me; he treated me as a son, and not me only, for he always took a deep interest in the work of all his brethren, and in a practical way helped those laboring in the regions beyond.

I accompanied him to the old country in 1927, and there he had great meetings in Belfast. Over two thousand people, gathered night after night to listen to his expositions of the Word of God. In his ministry he exalted the person of his blessed Lord and the great work of Calvary and in this sphere he excelled in unfolding the glories of the blessed Son of God.

In expounding the types and shadows, his ministry was especially rich, as he unfolded the person of the Lord Jesus, His high-priestly ministry, His essential glory and His coming glories and in all ever bringing before the Lord's people their

responsibility of being gathered alone to the peerless name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Thus he sought to build up and to strengthen the assemblies. I never knew of him to give any thought to anything else, than the building up and establishing of the assemblies of God's people according to the Word of God. I am sure as we think of the many and varied gifts of our dear brother we can say that "a prince and a great man is fallen in Israel."

It was my great privilege, when he became weaker, to take him around, and I had the honor of bringing him on his last train journey from Los Angeles to Oakland where he spent his last days.

In closing I would leave these words with you in regard to our brother McClure:

"Only one life," shall the mourners say
As they look at last on the senseless clay
So soon to be laid beneath the sod,
"Twas a noble life, well lived for God."

Address by Mr. W. H. Douglas

We shall read a few verses in II Tim. 4 verses 6, 7. "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, and I have kept the faith." As I was musing a little this morning regarding this present meeting, I thought of these words, and I believe it was the Spirit of God Who reminded me of them. Here is that man called Paul. He was facing execution. In a little while he would be at home with the One he had loved and served so long and so well. And that day he could say, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." These words especially impressed themselves upon my heart—"I have finished my course." It led me to think of my first meeting with our dear brother, Mr. William John McClure, and I can assure you that few men have ever had a place in my heart nearer or dearer than this dear brother. He left his work in the Deering Harvester Company after Thanksgiving day in 1884. A few weeks after that he travelled to Canada and there I met him for the first time in a village called Cannington in Ontario, and a few days later, I had another meeting with him in a village about

four miles down from there. He suggested we should serve together in the gospel and we were yoked together, I believe, by God's will in His service. We preached together, we ate together, we walked together, we slept together, for years. And a more faithful and diligent servant of the Lord Jesus Christ I have not known. My heart was won to him, and I believe it was reciprocated on his part to me. Many a long long walk we had when roads were not what they are today, often being covered deep with mud. I remember the years we spent under a tent, eating and sleeping under the canvas, and where we were gladdened to see the grace of God manifested in the saving of sinners.

After that visit to Ontario he came to this part of the country and he labored here, as you all know, for many years, earnestly and diligently, and God was pleased to bless his labors in California. Assemblies were formed and God's dear people were established by his ministry. Now dear brother McClure is at rest and at home with the One he loved and served.

"I have finished my course." The writer of these words—Paul—was characterized by three particular things. The first was his devotion to the person of God's Son. The next was his labor in the Gospel and the last was his love and care for the people of God, and I am sure, in a measure at least we could see a facsimile of these in our dear brother Mr. McClure. He was devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ. He loved Him, His name was dear to him, His person was precious to him. Yes, but he also loved to preach the Gospel, and as the result of his labors there are some in this gathering who know him as their spiritual father through the gospel he preached. Also, many in this audience can certify as to his love and diligent care for them and the people of God.

Dear brethren and dear sisters, it gives me joy to add to the testimony you have already heard regarding our departed brother, Mr. Wm. John McClure; he was a faithful servant of Christ, a true yokefellow, and he was also a teacher of the blessed truths of God.

The Lord then bless to us this afternoon our coming together to this special service in connection with the passing away of our beloved brother. I want to leave one verse with you be-

fore I sit down: "The memory of the just is blessed" (Prov. 10:7). I am sure that this is verified in the case of our dear brother McClure. The memory of him is blessed to us who have known him and have loved him.

Address by Mr. William M. Rae

I want to read in the book of Revelation chapter 21, verses 1-5. The reason for my reading those few verses this afternoon is because of my last visit with Mr. McClure in the home of our dear brother McIntyre a few weeks ago. We were privileged to read these few verses to him and we spoke a lot about these wonderful words. As we spoke with him there, sitting in his chair so frail and full of days, his eyes moistened as he said, "Give us more, give us more." So we dwelt a little further on these precious words, then had a little prayer together, he joining in, adding his hearty Amen. They are precious words and they were maybe more precious to him than to some of us today, for he knew he was reaching the border land. He knew these words would soon be a happy and glorious and eternal experience to him. His expression was "How wonderful, how wonderful." He knew it would be wonderful, beloved friends, when the hand of the eternal God that holds the universe, who by the word of His power flung millions of planets into space, that blessed hand should wipe the last tear from every eye of those who know Him. Tears are being shed today. "The whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now, and not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body." And with these thoughts in mind, his soul seemed to be gladdened and so was my soul cheered by the realization that these words would be true of every one of us very, very soon. These words are not meant for dying saints only. They are for living men and living women.

I can say with our brother Douglas, it is better to go to the house of mourning than to the house of feasting. To be mourning, but not as those without hope. A voice is silenced, which we will never hear on earth again. This occasion is a stop signal on the highway of life. Many activities were laid

aside by many of you today. Office activities were dropped, various and domestic cares laid aside.

What makes this moment a hallowed one? We have been brought together in the realization of the very presence of God. His precious word brings us face to face with eternity and there is nothing more greatly to be prized, for this world is empty. It is a hollow sham, a scene of blighted hopes. But we have been drawn aside for a time from the bustle of life to lend an ear to the voice of God, that we too may number our days.

I am not here to eulogize our brother. When here on earth he abhorred flattery. If he had a voice to express himself today he would say "No, do not do it." But I must say one or two things about him, even though he deplored eulogy. He was a man of high honor and integrity. This I know to be true for in the last thirty five years we have been a great deal together and have often been fellow laborers. Like our brother who has already spoken to you, we travelled together, and we prayed together and we slept together and preached together. He would rebuke you to your face but never speak ill of you behind your back. He is now with the Lord, and I can say with those who knew him longest, that every memory is truly valuable. He was a prince of a man. Those who have, during the years gone by, listened to his ministry, know the value of our dear departed brother's ministry. Because of his unique ability, his gift of expounding the Word, his messages were written indelibly in the mind and though years have passed, are still fresh in our memory. And our dear brother is now enjoying in reality what he many times spoke of, and what he refreshed the hearts of God's people with—those wonderful truths of the enjoyment of the believer when at last in the presence of the Lord. "In Thy presence is fulness of joy: at Thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore."

The Lord bless His beloved people and all who today have known our departed brother. He is gone on to all that is eternal. May it lead us to a deeper sense of real need of living for God and, shall we say, seek to mold our lives as he did, in seeking to reflect and fulfill the life of Christ on earth. He is now with the One He so loved to serve.

Shall we pray;

God our Father, we thank Thee for being permitted to be here this day, to hear Thy voice speaking to us, that we may be taught to number our days and apply our hearts to wisdom. We bless Thee that our brother has entered into the realities of being in Thy presence and that he is in the enjoyment of the Lord, that better part we ourselves desire.

But it may be that our blessed Lord will come for us. We shall not all sleep but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. We thank Thee for the hope of His coming. Make it real to each heart today. Make the unsaved here present realize how short life is, that man is of few days and full of trouble. Write these things upon their heart. Cheer and comfort and preserve the hearts of all thy dear people. These things we ask in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Service at Mountain View Cemetery

Conducted by Mr. B. Charles

Let us sing one verse of the hymn, "I'm but a stranger here, heaven is my home."

Beloved friends, I would like to read to you from 1 Cor. 15; verses 51, 52, 53. This scripture refers to the portion of those who have died in Christ: "This corruptible will put on incorruption." And they are reassuring, comforting words to us at this time as we lay aside the body of our beloved brother. We know full well, from God's divine revelation, that this is not the end. The body shall be raised, not as before corruptible, but raised triumphantly by the power of our risen Lord, raised in incorruption.

Let us pray: "Our Father, we come to Thee in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to ask thy blessing as we leave this open grave this afternoon. We are assured that we shall meet our dear brother again. We thank Thee for the testimony of our brother. We thank Thee we are exhorted by that word "Whose faith follow", and we thank Thee it is our privilege, those of us who still remain, to follow on into that day when our Lord shall come.

Richly bless the McIntyre family, bless all those who were so kind to our dear brother in his illness, we ask it in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our God's Good Pleasure

Oh, wondrous theme for endless praise,
That ransomed souls will ever raise,—
 "It pleased the Lord to bruise him."
By the Father owned as the Eternal Son,
By Seraphs the thrice Holy One,
 The host of heaven praise Him.

His pleasure was to do God's will,—
By Him fraught with sin's awful ill,
 In Calvary's dark hour;
Comforters He sought, but found not one,
For God had left His only Son,
 In man and Satan's power.

But now in heavenly glory bright,
We see the Lamb in Power and might,
 The only worthy One,
Well "pleased," the God-head's fullness dwells,
In Him, for all His saints, and tells
 God's joy is in his Son.

God is now "pleased" to set apart,
Vessels, fashioned by His own art,
 His wisdom to declare.
And pleased to make the gospel story,
Bring many sons to Him in glory,
 Who shall Christ's image bear.

"There is one body," Christ the Head;
The Members, those for whom He bled,
 Each in the body set,
As hath well pleased His sovereign will,
That each their proper place might fill,
 Thus all their needs be met.

Soon shall we see Jehovah's pleasure,
Prosper through Christ in fullest measure,
 The Lamb with glory crowned.
That glory, soon to dawn, shall show,
His joy, the fruit of deepest woe,
 As King He'll then be owned.

The One Who Took "The Lowest Room"

Creation (Job. 38:4-7)

By faith we scan the universe,
And see Thee on the throne;
The heavenly host, adoring,
All Thy high glories own.

The Cherubim and Seraphim
Proclaim Thy might, O Lord,
The Holy, Holy, Holy One,
For evermore adored.

Such was Thy majesty divine
When sang "the sons of God",
While gazing on that universe
Brought forth by Thine own word.

Incarnation (Luke 2:9-14)

And when again they sang with joy
'Twas not at earth's fair birth,
But at that wondrous birth of Thine,
Thou Lord of heaven and earth.

Emmanuel, even "God with us",
Jesus, Thou Prince of Peace,
"The Word made flesh", true Deity,
Whose praises never cease.

Though lowly in the manger crib,
Thou wast the Lord from heaven:
To the incarnate God—God manifest—
This humblest place was given.

Humiliation (Luke 14:7-11)

Though higher than the highest,
Thou took'st "the lowest room",
The greater than the greatest,
A servant to become.

And, oh, what grace excell'g,
Lord Jesus, in Thee shone:
Of all the kingdom's servants
Thou wast the lowliest One.

Exaltation (Phil. 2:5-11)

"Give this Man place", the Father saith,
The highest place and name
Belong to Him, to Him alone,
Who the Slave of slaves became".

Although creation's sovereign Lord
In grace He stooped to fill
The lowliest place upon the earth;
He served and serveth still.

The Name that once was banned by men,
In heaven is praised alone;
Jesus, Jehovah's Servant,
Is on Jehovah's Throne.

—W. J. McClure



"With Christ" There - "Christ with us" Here

Things of the earth in the earth will we lay,
Ashes with ashes, the dust with the clay;
Lift up the heart, and the eye, and the love,
Lift up thyself to the regions above;
Since the Immortal hath entered before
Mortals may pass at the heavenly door.—

Stand we on Olivet: mark Him ascend,
Whose is the glory and might without end;
There with His own, the Giver of good
Blessed them once more and a little while stood.
"Nothing can part us—nor distance, nor foes
Lo! I am with you, and who can oppose?"

Joseph of the Studium (Ninth Century)
Translated from the Greek.