

Rev. Dinwoodie.

Reports from the Helensburgh and Gareloch Times on the dates shown.

15th. Feb. 1939, Retiral of Rev. Grant:-

Retiral of Rosneath Minister.

At Dumbarton Presbytery last week, the Clerk read a letter from the Rev. A. B. Grant, minister of Rosneath, intimating his resignation on account of ill-health, and asking that his ministry might be concluded on Sunday, 9th April.

The Presbytery received the application with regret, and approved of an application for an annuity from the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund for Mr Grant.

12th. Apr. 1939, Retiral of Rev. Grant:-

ROSNEATH.

Minister's Retiral.

At the Dumbarton Presbytery meeting on Tuesday of last week, Mr S. K. Turnbull, Mr John Glennie, and Mr William Rankine were present as commissioners from Rosneath Church in connection with the retiral of the minister, the Rev. A. B. Grant.

Tributes were paid to the work of the Rev. Mr Grant at Rosneath and Clynder during his 22 years ministry there, and, on the motion of the Rev. P. W. Lilley, seconded by the Rev. T. E. Jubb, the Presbytery agreed that Mr Grant's resignation be accepted as from 10th April. Rev. Mr Lilley was appointed Moderator in the vacancy at Rosneath.

ROSNEATH.

Induction To-day.

The Presbytery of Dumbarton will meet in Rosneath Church to-day (Wednesday) to induct the Rev. Cameron Dinwoodie, Ph.D., to the pastoral charge of the Parish and congregation of Rosneath.

The Rev. John A. Kitchen, M.A., will conduct the devotional exercises and preach, and the Rev. J. A. Turner Kennedy, M. A., will give the charges.

OCTOBER 4, 1939.

ROSNEATH.

Dr Dinwoodie Inducted.

The autumn sun streamed in rainbow shafts through the stained glass windows of the pretty little Church of Rosneath on Wednesday afternoon of last week, when the Rev. Matthew James Cameron Dinwoodie, Ph.D., was inducted to the pastoral charge of the Parish and congregation, adding his name to a succession of preachers of the Word which goes far back in history to the time when St. Modan had a cell on Rosneath Peninsula.

The service was conducted by the Rev. John Kitchin, M.A., and as it was the first induction in the Presbytery since the outbreak of war, his words were tinged with sorrow for the calamity which has befallen Europe.

He prayed for the blessing of God on our King and royal family, the Government and the Armed Forces, and added an intercession "for those who call themselves our enemies," that nations might cease from strife and openly acknowledge the universal brotherhood of man.

In the course of a short sermon, on the text from Isaiah 26: 9, "When my judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants will learn righteousness," Mr Kitchin remarked that the word "judgments" in the translation from the ancient Hebrew version did not convey the true meaning of the original word, which meant "laws, precepts and statutes." When these were accepted on earth, the inhabitants would learn righteousness. Some people might think it rather obvious and unnecessary to repeat the text, but the day of righteousness had not yet come.

To-day, we were dealing with men who thought they could dispense with God. Even supposing one nation were to come out entirely on the side of Christ and throw away ambition, would the result be any better if wrong asserted itself over right? We, of the Christian Church, were standing abashed and humbled, wondering if the brotherhood of man would ever get a chance. We had had our fancies and utopias, our league of nations, treaties and pacts, disarmament conferences and round-table talks, but all that these stood for had now vanished. The dreams which once consoled our stupid fancies were no more. Sometimes, in a quiet mood, we were not surprised.

God's judgments were not on the earth. His precepts were not ruling the hearts of our own nation, let alone lands abroad. There were some who thought that religion had nothing to do with politics, but the religion of Jesus Christ would inevitably invade history, and a nation composed of individuals who had His precepts in their minds could change the face of the world.

Why were not all lands Christian? One answer was because of our lack of example in the ordinary walks of our daily life, and our lack of evangelism. There were still people who kept their religion to themselves, and when it came to evangelism and missionary enterprise they said "Why not let people alone if they do not want religion?" Leave the world unevangelised, and tragedy would lie ahead. Unless the mind of Jesus Christ were inculcated in the minds of men and women the world over, there was no hope of a lasting peace. That was the only hope for the dawning of the day for which we prayed "Thy Kingdom come." That Kingdom would come only when His will is done. The great need of the world was not international justice, but concentrated effort by all Christians for world-wide evangelism of the Christian Gospel, and all else would follow, for only then would the foundation be secure.

The Rev. R. D. E. Stevenson, of Arrochar, read the preamble and questions to the minister and congregation in accordance with the ordinances of the Church of Scotland, and duly inducted the Rev. Cameron Dinwoodie to the Parish and congregation.

In a charming and informal manner, the Rev. J. A. Turner Kennedy, M.A., of Park Church, Helensburgh, addressed a few words of encouragement to the new minister. He congratulated Dr Dinwoodie and welcomed him to the beautiful parish of Rosneath. At the same time, he was aware that Dr Dinwoodie was starting a new ministry at a very difficult time.

Mr Kennedy was reminded of another minister who, during the last war, found it very difficult to carry on his church in Edinburgh. The young men of the congregation were away on service and the other members were working overtime or engaged in other duties, and it was almost impossible to maintain the various organisations of the church in such circumstances.

Rosneath, like every other place, would have to take its share of the present difficulties, but we must face them with all the courage we were capable of.

In spite of this, Dr Dinwoodie was starting his new ministry at a time of unparalleled opportunity, well calculated to bring out the best in him. In times such as these, he would find a real hunger among his people for the things of the spirit, and they would take him into the love and fellowship of their hearts as never before. That would be the minister's opportunity, if a solemn one.

Mr Kennedy also spoke to the congregation, reminding them of the promises they had just made. Their new minister trusted them to keep those promises, and it was their responsibility to see that his trust was not misplaced. They must be patient with their minister if he were to fall short of the ideals he had set for himself, and give him time to prove his worth to them, always surrounding him with their love and sympathy and their prayers.

The Interim Moderator, the Rev. P. W. Lilley, M.A., of Rhu, conducted the new minister at the end of the service to the doorway of the church where Dr Dinwoodie shook hands with the members of his congregation.

A little social meeting to welcome the new minister will take place at the church this (Wednesday) afternoon.

OCTOBER 11, 1939.

ROSNEATH PARISH CHURCH.

Meeting of Welcome to the Rev. Dr Dinwoodie.

There was no doubt about the heartiness of the welcome which members and friends of Rosneath Church accorded to their new minister, the Rev. Matthew James Cameron Dinwoodie, M.A., Ph.D. (Edin.) The social meeting, over which the Interim-Moderator, the Rev. Philip W. Lilley, minister of Rhu Parish, presided at the outset and which was well attended, took place on Wednesday, the 11th October, in the Clachan Hall, at 3 p.m.

After a sumptuous tea had been provided—set out with that attractiveness which one expects from the Ferry Inn and with which one is never disappointed—Mr Lilley in his opening remarks reminded the gathering that they were met that afternoon with one purpose—to give a warm welcome to their new minister, Dr Dinwoodie and his wife and family. The vacancy had not lasted long—just under six months. Dr Dinwoodie came to them as a man of accredited scholarship. His Doctorate in Philosophy bore witness to that, and this honour was probably only the forerunner of another Doctorate—in Divinity. But their minister was more than a mere scholar. At the Presbytery of Stirling they had been assured that he was also "a man of a pastoral heart," and that meant very much and especially in these days of war. It was evident that Rosneath people were kind to their ministers when one remembered that within the last century and a quarter (or nearly so) there had only been four ministers in Rosneath—Robert Story, Dr Herbert Story, Alfred Warr, and A. B. Grant (now retired).

Referring in humorous fashion to a conversation he had had with Dr Dinwoodie on "the 'Call' of Reuben Butler" (in Scott's "Heart of Midlothian") to the parish of Rosneath, Mr Lilley stated that he had been gently corrected by Dr Dinwoodie in implying that Rosneath Manse was Reuben Butler's Manse, because the scenery which Scott describes in his famous novel pointed very plainly to the fact that Reuben Butler's Manse must have been the Manse of Rhu. Well, he thought that that slight mistake was a happy omen. The two Manses were to be so closely allied in friendship that they might be easily confused the one with the other. The Interim-Moderator then left the chair for the new Minister.

Robing Ceremony.

Thereafter came the very important ceremony of the presentation of robes to the new incumbent. This was very gracefully performed by Miss M'Coll, who robed the minister with dignity and spoke a word of gracious welcome. Thanking Miss M'Coll for her kindness, Dr Dinwoodie proceeded to say that he felt the great honour of being called to be minister in such a historic parish, and he relied implicitly upon all the members giving him that confidence and friendship which were so necessary for the efficient carrying on of his ministry in their midst. This time-honoured ceremony of robing the new minister was one which reminded him and his people of their true function in the Church. For himself that day it was a reminder that he was privileged to speak for God, teaching in His name and working with His people under Christ. Times change but these duties remained, and as he discharged them he trusted all would be to the benefit of his people and parish.

Addresses of welcome then followed from Rev. R. Macpherson, of Craigrownie, and the Rev. W. M. Kelly, of Kilcreggan.

Presentations.

The presentation to the Interim-Moderator was made by Mr W. Rankine, Session Clerk, who referred in complimentary terms to the guidance and help which Mr Lilley had given them during the vacancy, he had pleasure in asking him to accept a cheque in recognition of his services. In reply, Mr Lilley thanked Mr Rankine for his kind words and also the congregation for this generous gift, and referred to the genuine pleasure he had had in the work and to the many personal kindnesses he had received from them as he visited them now and then in their homes.

An address was then given by Rev. J. Y Simpson, of Wishaw, who was a friend of the

minister's; thereafter Mrs Watson, of Laurelhill, presented Mrs Dinwoodie with a cheque, and Mrs Dinwoodie in returning thanks for this gift spoke appreciatively of the warm hospitality she had received during the days when the Manse was not ready.

The Rev. W. M. Paterson, of Garelochhead, and Rev. W. H. Rogan, of St. Bride's Helensburgh, added their words of welcome. Dr Watson, in a crisp and humorous speech moved the customary votes of thanks to the various speakers whose addresses had been entertaining and also commendably short, all of which had doubtless contributed to the happiness of the afternoon. Thus ended a particularly happy gathering, and thus also began a new chapter in the ecclesiastical history of this ancient parish which goes back to the days of St. Modan, that earnest evangelist of Jesus Christ.

Career of Rev. Dr Dinwoodie.

Dr Dinwoodie is a son of the Manse, his father having held a charge in the United Free Church of Kelly, Fife, from 1901 to 1918, thereafter being secretary to the Scottish Colportage Society and holding charges also in the Presbyterian Church of England until his death. The new minister of Rosneath was educated at Fettes College, Edinburgh from 1916 to 1921, and at Edinburgh University from 1921 to 1925, where he graduated in Arts (M.A.) with Honours in Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. His theological course was taken at New College, Edinburgh, 1925 to 1928, where he gained the Eadie Prize in Hebrew. During his New College days he was assistant to the Rev. W. Galbraith Taylor, of Nicolson Street Church, Edinburgh, and was ordained and inducted to the pastoral charge of Tarfside Church, Glenesk, Angus, in 1928, and thereafter translated to West Church, Tillicoultry, in 1931. During his ministry there he finished his work on a Thesis "The Settlement of the Hebrews in Canaan," for which he gained the degree of Ph.D. While in Tillicoultry Dr Dinwoodie was convener of the Home Mission Committee in the Presbytery of Stirling and Dunblane, in which he did valuable and painstaking work, and for which he received the thanks of that Presbytery.

6th. Jun. 1956, Rev. Dinwoodie Call to Langholm:-

ROSNEATH

A Call

A Call has been conveyed to the Rev. Dr Dinwoodie by the congregation of Erskine Church, Langholm, and it will be presented to Dumbarton Presbytery at the first meeting of that body.

27th. Jun. 1956, Rev. Dinwoodie's Farewell Sermon:-

Wednesday

JUNE 27, 1956

DR DINWOODIE'S FAREWELL SERMON

After 17 years as minister of Rosneath Church, the Rev. Dr Cameron Dinwoodie preached his farewell sermon on Sunday last to a large congregation which was augmented by about 50 brethren of Masonic Lodge, St. Modan, No. 1015. Dr. Dinwoodie is to be inducted to the charge of Erskine Church, Langholm, today (Wednesday) and for his farewell sermon he spoke on "The Power of Prayer" taking for his text the words "It came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed" (Exodus XVII., 11.) Doctor Dinwoodie said:—

ST. MODAN'S CHURCH, ROSNEATH

Induction of Rev. G. M. Stevenson, M.A.

On Thursday, 22nd November, the Rev. George M. Stevenson, M.A. was inducted to the vacancy in St. Modan's Church, Rosneath, caused by the translation of the Rev. Dr Dinwoodie to Langholm.

Mr Stevenson, who is a graduate of Glasgow University, has come from the Union Church, Hong Kong, where he has been for about ten years, having gone out there with the Navy in 1946. Previous to that he was minister of Inveraven Parish on Speyside and before that, in 1939 and 1940, he was Assistant to the Rev. W. W. Reid at Dumbarton Old Parish. Mr Stevenson, therefore, is no stranger to Dumbarton Presbytery.