

THE LATE MR. TURNBULL AND DR. GARDNER.

In the course of the service held at Chalmers Church on Sunday morning Dr. Paton said— 'To the younger section of this congregation the name of James Thomson Turnbull of whose decease we were informed by cablegram a few days ago, may not stand for much, but to those who knew him it recalls a striking and interesting personality. Living alone as he did for years he was yet the most sociable of men. Pronouncedly Scotch in the structure of his character, he was yet as bright and pleasant as the most affable and vivacious of Frenchmen. Tolerant, too, as he was of all faiths, he continued at heart a sturdy Presbyterian. It was he who among other generous deeds presented the large engraving in our vestry of the first General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland, taken from the famous picture of that event painted by D. O. Hill, a brother-in-law of the distinguished artist. Sir Noel Paton. When in March, 1880, the centenary of the birth of Thomas Chalmers was celebrated, he entered into the movement with much enthusiasm, and was greatly disappointed because so little public interest was taken in the memories of the occasion. When an effort was made in 1833 to reduce the debt of £1,400 on the manse, which issued in the raising of about £350 for this object, there was no one who took so active a part in the matter as he. After he left the colony, moreover, chiefly in search of health, he showed his interest in the affairs of the Church in various ways, and especially by his pecuniary contributions in aid of the Sunday-school. He had a large store of practical humanity in his nature, and one remembers with thankfulness the numerous cases of poverty and necessity which he both relieved himself and induced others to relieve. His heart was bigger than his purse. He was gifted with much fertility of resource, and in some departments of it may be said to have raised the mechanical work of tabulating statistics to the level of the fine arts. Of recent years he had not, it is true, been able to do much towards the building up of the Church or the colony, but by his removal we are all left poorer in the highest sense than we were. Once more, therefore, the voices of Providence and grace conspire in saying to us, ' Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it.*' Sympathetic reference was also made to the death of Dr. William Gardner, son of the first minister of Chalmers Church, the venerable Rev. John Gardner.