

Musselburgh Evening News Friday 22nd Feb

Rev. Mr Crockett

In last week's Christian Leader the following appeared regarding this gentleman: -

The Rev Samuel Rutherford Crockett of Penicuik, although only ordained in 1886 is well-known beyond the confines of the paper-making centre on the Esk in which he to considerable purpose discharges his ministerial duties. Not only has he youth on his side, but being 6 feet and 3 inches high and well-built in proportion he has all the advantage of a fine physical presence. In addition, he is a man of decidedly literary tastes, and possesses the care of manner and store of information acquired by extensive travel. When a student he was well-known to be a contributor to various newspapers and magazines and his connection with the press has not yet ceased, as he still writes for one of the ablest and most popular of the London dailies. Having an ardent and genial temperament he has the faculty of making and keeping friends, especially in literary circles, and the special pleasure and honour is his of having as a regular correspondent the gifted and versatile countryman Robert Louis Stevenson. Mr Crockett's poetic mind has found expression in the volume entitled *Dulce Cor*, which has received the praise of Lord Tennyson. Before his settlement at Penicuik, he was assistant in the Free Abbey Church, Dunfermline, where his preaching and pastoral work were much appreciated. At Penicuik, where he has the able co-operation of many good men such as Mr John Cowan of Beeslack and others, he has been instrumental in infusing new life into the various departments of congregational activity and has added over 100 members to the roll. This winter's syllabus shows an extraordinary amount of work, especially among young men and women. Besides a senior Bible class with a membership of 127 and a junior class with 91 members, there are classes weekly for the study of English literature, geology, and English history, all conducted by himself. One criticism of the syllabus made by a Free Church minister was that there was 'little of the Gospel in it' but it would be a pity to suppose that Mr Crockett is lacking in evangelical fervour. Mission work is being vigorously carried on, especially in the outlying districts of the town among the mining population; and the mission schools as well as the congregational Sabbath school secure a share of his attention and help. A good preacher, he is like nearly all who have the poetic instinct, a little unequal in the pulpit, but his powers in that direction are undoubtedly developing. He is a most interesting lecturer. His resources of anecdote and illustration are brought into requisition on the platform and a keen sense of humour gives added piquancy. His lecture 'Through Central Europe with Knapsack' delivered in Edinburgh a fortnight ago under the auspices of the Bristo Gospel Temperance Union to a crowded audience, was racy, witty, yet practical withal, and in closing fine use was made of a conversation with Prince Bismarck and the effect produced upon the presentation of the Prince's autograph upon any disagreeable and obstructive German official, is illustration of the power of the name that is above every name. By special request Mr Crockett gave a lecture on the 11th last, to the Edinburgh Presbyterian Sabbath school teachers association on 'The Best Bibles for Teachers and how to use them'.

[Transcribed from the original]

Since the commencement of his ministry Mr Crockett has devoted a portion of his time to the systematic visitation of his congregation and seems inclined to adhere to the plan. P.C.