

## Mr & Mrs Grattan Guinness and the Brethren.

In an article on the "P.B. in Chambers's Encyclopædia occurs the following sentence. "One of the most noted—if not notable—converts to the principles of the sect was the revivalist Guinness, who was baptized in 1860 by another Plymouth Brother, Lord Congleton." In a letter written at the beginning of 1886, Mr Guinness says, "I was never a convert to the principles of the Plymouth Brethren, though I have known and esteemed many of them; especially my late dear friend Lord Congleton. I never was connected with them, nor since my baptism with any denomination; I prefer belonging to the Church of Christ as a whole, rather than to any section of it." Mr Guinness is the Director of the East London Institute for Home and Foreign Missions.

Mrs Grattan Guinness's Pamphlet on The Brethren. Some years ago a little book was published in London written by Mrs G. Guinness, which her husband says, "was simply a reprint of a newspaper article published in America, where absurd misconceptions prevailed as to the principles of the Plymouth Brethren." In the Bible Treasury for Feb. 1862 p. 32 Mr Darby criticises this pamphlet. J. N. D. on Mrs Guinness's Pamphlet. "The Eclectic" also has taken up arms in an article which certainly would demand no kind of notice but for the work commented upon, the little tract of Mrs Guinness. As it is stated in another of these commonplace attacks I have seen, that this tract is referred to by others, I allow myself to say that I should object altogether to it being taken as the Brethren's account of themselves, or any Brother's account of them. The estimable person who gives it, (and I say this sincerely, believing Mrs Guinness to be so) was hardly I apprehend, born when the Brethren began; and hence it cannot be surprising that her account should be inexact historically. It is very inexact indeed. But this, too, I should leave where it was; as the best thing for Christians to do is to serve God so that He may commend them, and then let people say what they like. But I object to Mrs Guinness's account because it is a regular puff of Brethren, and in this point of view I feel it is highly objectionable. It seems to me that, in a young female it would have been better taste to have omitted characterizing any Christian, some years older than herself, as Diatrophes. She may be sure he forgives her; nor would it be of any consequence to mention it, were it not a proof that the true motives of opposition, which she so characterizes, have lost their weight in her mind. I may not have any right to expect, that, what so many Christians hold to be horrible Blasphemies, Mrs Guinness should hold to be such; but I must conclude that if she is obliged to consider the opposition to them as the spirit of Diatrophes, she cannot see in these blasphemies anything which affects her mind as such. I am sorry for her that it should be so."

It was quite an inspiration to be present at Dr. Parker's farewell service last Thursday. What a congregation it was! It seemed as if all that was best in London had gathered within the walls of the City Temple. Ministers of all kinds—from the jolly country parson to the melancholy Plymouth brother—were present.