

Our Contributors.

SOME NOTES ON OUR OWN ASSEMBLY.

BY KNOXONIAN.

Kingston is a fine old city, a city of parks and shade trees and genial, kindly, cultured people. Commercially, Kingston may not be suffering from what an English writer calls the "beastly prosperity" of some cities in the Western States, but nevertheless Kingston is a good old city in many ways. It is a good city to hold a meeting of Assembly in, and we venture to say a large majority of the commissioners thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Of course there are a few people even in the Presbyterian Church who can never enjoy themselves in any place. They are not constructed for enjoyment even in the most genial environment. Some of these people may have been members of the Assembly. We do not know that they were, for we are thankful to say we did not meet any of them, but possibly some of them may have been there. If they did not feel fairly happy the fault must not be laid to the Kingston Presbyterians. These good people did all in their power to make the Assembly meeting pass off pleasantly, and they deserve the thanks of every commissioner, and, for that matter, of every other good Presbyterian in the Dominion. It is no easy matter to accommodate this big court for ten days. In this, as in every other kind of Church activity, the work always falls upon a few. Thanks for the few.

KINGSTON STATESMEN

Kingston has produced more statesmen to the acre than any other city in the Dominion. Sir John spent his school days here, studied and practised law here, and last Thursday week was laid to rest on a lovely hill side a little to the north of the city he loved so well. Alexander Mackenzie began his Canadian life here. Oliver Mowat is a Kingston man, though the greater part of his life has been spent in Toronto. Sir Richard Cartwright was brought up here. The names of other distinguished Canadians might be given, but these are quite enough to show that the Limestone City has added more than its share to the statesmanship of the country.

KINGSTON PRESBYTERIANS.

Judged by the stone and mortar test—the only one we are applying—Presbyterianism is more than holding its own in the Limestone City. Within the last few years two splendid new churches have been built and a third made as good as new. St. Andrews, the church in which the Assembly is sitting, is a noble edifice, and Chalmers would be an ornament to any city in the Dominion. We had not the pleasure of seeing the church on Brock Street, but were told that it is as good a church building as anybody could want. The three congregations are ministered to by strong men, who are doing good work. The genial pastor of the Brock Street Church has the good fortune to be among the parsons who get a trip across the Atlantic this summer, and was not within hand-shaking distance of his many friends in the Assembly. The pastors of St. Andrews and Chalmers were everywhere, doing all in their power to make the commissioners comfortable, in which work they were ably assisted by Dr. T. G. Smith, Principal Grant and several other well-known Kingston Presbyterians.

WHERE THE COMMISSIONERS COME FROM.

To form some idea of the extent of country covered by this Church all one need do is look around among the commissioners sitting near him. That good-natured brother sitting over there in the corner is the Rev. Patrick McFarlane McLeod, of Victoria, British Columbia. He seems to be suffering from the heat, and the reason is because he is accustomed to the air of the Pacific. When he works at his sermon opposite the open window of his study, the friendly sea breezes fan his fevered brow. That busy man taking notes on the second seat from the front is Brother Murray, of the Halifax Witness. When he writes his editorials his manly brow is cooled by breezes from the Atlantic. From every point between these oceans the commissioners come. In covering ground the American Presbyterian Church is, perhaps, the only member of the Presbyterian family that can beat us. If we do not succeed as a Church the failure will not arise from want of room. The spectacle of two ministers struggling for room and existence in a locality in which only one is needed is grotesque in a Church that extends from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

LAST YEAR'S WORK.

The results of last year's work as set before the Assembly so far—we write on Monday, 13th—are, in the main, highly satisfactory. The Church has shown more liberality in supporting Home and Foreign Mission work than it ever showed before. A small deficit here or there means nothing more than that some committee did a little more work than the funds covered for the time being. The Church is sound on mission work, and, compared with its own past, is making satisfactory progress in the matter of giving. Of course it is easy to say that more might be done. That is quite true, but truisms can be repeated by a parrot. We must deal with people as we find them. Thousands of the best people in the Church are giving as much as they can afford, and they should not be scolded for the sake of getting at those who are not doing their duty. Even in cases in which congregations seem to fail, the fault is not all with the people. The

machinery of the Church for laying information before the people is not always of the best, and there is a terrible possibility that some ministers labour under the delusion that every dollar given to missions is a dollar lost for congregational purposes.

A PLEASANT SOCIAL EVENT.

The social event of this Assembly meeting was the garden party given by the authorities of Queen's University in their beautiful grounds on Saturday afternoon. Taking it all round it was one of the best things in a social way any Assembly ever enjoyed. The members and a large number of Kingstonians strolled around under the shady maples, chatted, laughed and enjoyed themselves as people can only do when they are not trying to enjoy themselves. Then they entered the classic halls of Queen's, and took a full course in the University. The course consisted of every variety of cake that a Kingston woman can make, and that means as many varieties as can be made by any woman in Canada or any other country. It is said that evangelists are the greatest eaters in the world, but if the most capacious living evangelist had been present he might have found himself hard run to hold his own against some of the regular clergy or even against some of the elders. The ladies did the waiting, and now we don't wonder that all the Queen's students leave college engaged. A young man who lives in Kingston five or seven years and does not get engaged is unfit to be a graduate of a Presbyterian university.

After refreshments the company went upstairs to the convocation hall. The Chancellor of the University, Mr. Sandford Fleming, occupied the chair. Around him were grouped all the college principals in the Church and several other distinguished people. Addresses were delivered by the entire body of principals—count them up for yourself—and by Dr. Reid, Dr. Wardrope, Dr. Macdonald, Hamilton; Mr. Robert Macqueen, Beverly; Mr. John Cameron, London; Mr. Chrysler, Ottawa, and Mr. John A. Patterson, Toronto. Dr. Reid is now the only man living who was present at the meeting held in December, 1839, to take steps to found Queen's and who was also present at the jubilee meeting in 1884. There were three at the jubilee meeting, Dr. Reid, M. G. M. Rose and Sir John Macdonald. Sir John and Mr. Rose have since died. The five-minute speeches were, for the most part, excellent. The tone of the meeting was fine, and very clearly shows that somewhere down in the Presbyterian heart Queen's has a warm place, which is becoming warmer every day.

More notes next week perhaps.

INTERNATIONAL YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION TRAINING SCHOOL.

MR. EDITOR,—I take pleasure in sending you herewith a copy of our sixth annual catalogue, and if you see fit to kindly make mention of this International Christian Training School, whose friends are to be found in every section of our country, the following facts suggested by this catalogue may be of interest to the readers of your journal:—

Prior to last June, the school was a part of a corporation known as the School for Christian workers, but at that time, in order to bring it into closer affiliation with the Associations on whose behalf it has been established, it was separately incorporated, and now bears the name of the International Young Men's Christian Association Training School.

Besides its general course of instruction, which is largely Biblical, it has two departments of special instruction; one for the training of men for the General Secretaryship of our Young Men's Christian Associations; and the other for the training of men to be Physical Directors in connection with these Associations. All of the students, however, in both departments are Christian men who enter the work from the same desire to consecrate their lives to Christian work, and are all required to take the general course of instruction.

The school has recently secured, and is now raising funds to pay for the purchase of, a very eligible tract of land in the south eastern section of the city, having a frontage on what is known as Watersheds Pond, and covering altogether nearly thirty acres, seven of which are already being laid out as athletic grounds, and the rest will furnish abundant room for all needed buildings, four of which the school desire to erect as soon as funds for the purpose can be obtained. The land, with the equipment of the athletic grounds, will cost about \$22,000, and towards this \$14,000 has already been pledged. The cost of the four buildings is roughly estimated at about \$100,000, and includes a dormitory, a building for recitation rooms, lecture hall, and offices; gymnasium, with room also for a physical laboratory; and a small fire-proof library building, to shelter what is known as the Young Men's Christian Association Historical Library, which is the only one of its kind that approaches completeness, and which if destroyed no money could replace. It would also have a place for the small but valuable library of the Physical Department, and likewise for a general reference library to be used in connection with the Biblical studies pursued at the school.

The school has a recognized interest in the building of the old corporation, or the School for Christian workers, of \$15,000, and this amount is being raised at present among Springfield friends of the old corporation to be paid to the Association Training School in order to relieve the building of this moral claim upon it. Nearly half of the \$14,000

already secured towards the new grounds of the school has been obtained in this way.

The Physical Department of the school constitutes, with the general course of instruction, the only normal training school of physical culture which puts physical culture upon a distinctively Christian basis, giving to educative physical exercise its proper subordinate position in relation to the higher parts of a man's nature, and, at the same time, giving to it its true dignity by making it an integral, though subordinate, part of all-round Christian education. In other words, the object of this department of the school is to train Christian Physical Directors who shall in their work seek to make the body in every sense the most capable and efficient servant of mind and spirit.

The number of students, as shown by the catalogue, that have attended the school during the year just closing is forty-seven, twenty-seven of whom have been in the Secretarial Department, and twenty in the Physical. The demand for men in both of these departments of association work is fully three times as large as the school is able to supply. In order to meet this excessive demand, as well as to advance the standard of normal training in both departments represented by the school, the following new features in its course of instruction are set forth in the present catalogue:—

A summer school for the Secretarial Department, in connection with a similar school that for the past three years has been held for men training for physical department work, and which this summer will cover the month of August.

Correspondence Courses for non-resident students in departmental studies, which will be begun for the first time next fall in connection with each department, and for which there has been found to be a wide-spread demand. Also an Elementary Course of one year, and a Post-graduate Course of one year in connection with the Physical Department.

With these additional lines of normal training in operation, it is confidently hoped that the usefulness of this special Training School for Christian laymen will be greatly enhanced and its helpful influence more widely extended.

OLIVER C. MORSE

Springfield, Mass., June 5, 1891.

FRAGMENTARY NOTES.

SEA VOYAGE—SOME EXPERIENCES OF PASSENGERS.

To write a description of a trip by an ocean steamer will at this late day be considered rather stale, and I can understand some of my readers calling out "chestnut." The few sentences regarding the sea voyage are by way of introduction to brief fragmentary notes taken in a hurried way during a very hurried trip to the Old Country. It is true that there can be nothing said that is new, as I have not seen anything which others have not seen, but of what subject can it be said that one can give anything really new?

For a few hours after the ship leaves the wharf everything goes on merrily as a marriage bell; and with the exception of those who have been previously acquainted, no one speaks to another. Those who dreaded sea-sickness before they started have begun to feel a little dizzy; they try shawls, rugs and lemonade, but these things prove no preventative from sickness, and soon they yield to the inevitable by leaving the deck and repairing to their staterooms. I cannot join in the laugh and jest usually levelled at those unfortunate passengers who so soon become sea-sick. On the contrary, they should call forth the sympathy of everyone.

It is at all times interesting to watch the "green ones" who happen to be well. They take a survey of the entire ship, are pleased with everyone and everything from the taking of the log to the ringing of the bell for lunch. One lady may be seen opening her diary and commencing to take notes. Everything seems new, and is carefully noted. She asks all sorts of questions, such as: "How many days will we be at sea?" "How soon will we be in sight of land?" "Isn't this lovely?" "I could just live here." There are still a few who can run a voyage without feeling sick, and this correspondent is among them, and there is much enjoyment in this, although there is sympathy for the sick ones.

The few who remain on deck soon get acquainted, and begin by taking short walks. Then they form small groups and become quite familiar, and often the acquaintances formed on ship-board last for life, and others not unfrequently end in marriage.

Games of all sorts are indulged in, "afternoon teas," card parties and racing, and it is astonishing how quickly the hours pass. For the time home, friends and business are cast to the winds, and the weather, the ship, her difficulties, her dangers are the principal subjects of conversation. Occasionally some one will be heard to exclaim: "Well, I wonder what they are doing at home."

In the midst of all this hilarity a little storm comes along, when the captain and officers are besieged as to the probable result. The sea begins to swell, the ship is rolling, and the sky is darkening, but all that can be learned from the ship's officers is that "it is dirty weather," or "a fresh breeze."

Life is easy on ship-board; the world is no trouble to any one. The only question is, what shall we eat and what shall we drink? without thinking very much of what we shall wear.

The butcher, baker and milkman never bother one, and you are not afraid of the tailor coming and asking when he can have that "little bill," and as for the dressmaker, bless your heart, she never shows up at all!