

OUR IOWA LETTER.

We in the States are watching with interest the progress toward the union of churches, and while we have for a long time been sceptical, we really feel that something may be accomplished. It seems a great sacrifice to give up even the name of Presbyterian, but we remember the name borne by other denominations is just as dear to them. The effort will be a success only as there are mutual sacrifices. Such a union as proposed will be a great gain to the cause of Christ, not only for the work in Canada, but in the United States and throughout the world. Let the good work go on.

Waterloo First Church has called the Rev. Herbert W. Rehder of Bethany Church, Detroit, and he has already entered upon his work. This church has suffered much by the withdrawal of many members in the organization of the Westminster Church on the West Side, but it marks a large step forward in Presbyterianism to have a church on both sides of the beautiful Cedar River. Waterloo is one of the best and most promising cities in Iowa, and our new hospital there is doing well. Rev. W. B. Sanford, for several years the pastor of the Nevada Church, is the first pastor of the new Westminster Church. They hope to build in the spring. Rev. Dr. E. H. Avery, for 18 years the pastor of the Vinton Presbyterian Church, but for the past six years laboring in California, is a delegate to the General Assembly which meets in Des Moines in May. His host of Iowa friends will be glad to see him again. He labored in Iowa for some thirty years. He has been our spiritual father so that we know his worth. The coming of the general assembly marks a most important epoch for the work in Iowa. It will do our own Synod great good and let the state know something more of Presbyterianism, and its influence throughout the country.

Rev. Alex. Corkey, for four years in the Fairfield Church, where occurred one of the greatest revivals in Iowa for some time, has accepted a call and been installed at Osceola, Iowa. Rev. Jas. Corkey of Jefferson has a very prosperous work, and is a sort of bishop of a large district, reaching two distant points on alternate Sabbath afternoons.

Rev. Richard Pugh, who is of Welsh descent, and who once mined coal in this state, has taken charge of the Vail Church. Rev. Arthur W. Miller has gone from the Odell Church to Lake City. He is a young man of promise.

Rev. W. H. Jordan, in his fifth year at Carroll, Iowa, has conducted a three weeks' meeting in his church and has met with much encouragement in the attendance of the more distant members who never before thought they could come to evening services, yet they are found there night after night. It is yet too early to tell the results, but some have made decision and others will be gathered in. He goes Feb. 5th to Wall Lake for a two weeks' meeting with a M. E. Church and a Presbyterian Church. Meetings are being held very generally at this time. The Harveys are having some success in meetings in the smaller churches, but the appeal to the unconverted is to the emotions and doubt is expressed as to the permanency of the work. Paul and Jesus appealed to the conscience, knowing that the conscience is always on the side of right. Better fewer conversions and better quality.

Foreign Missions is pushing right to the front in Iowa. Rev. Chas. Bradt is the Western Secretary with headquarters at Chicago, and meets with the committee in Des Moines the 26th of January to further the work.

Rev. W. P. Nichols, one of the youngest men in Iowa, has had charge of the work in Mount Pleasant for over 15 years, and has done a good work. His people who last year gave \$80.00 to Foreign Missions

has this year pledged \$800.00. That is a genuine sign of revival. Clinton and some of the other churches have also taken such forward steps.

Sioux City First Church under the leadership of Rev. Dr. S. D. McFadden, has enjoyed a revival, and has received more than 130 persons into the church. He was assisted in a series of meetings by Rev. C. G. Jordan formerly of the E. Liverpool church, Ohio, who has been very successful in evangelistic work.

Another important change in the ministry in Iowa is that of Rev. Geo. Rourke from Sac City, Iowa, to the church in Marion, Ohio, a church of 700 members. Mr. Rourke is a strong man and has been heard in Toronto several times.

Many are praying for a great revival, and after we heard the report from the great recognition service at Chicago, just before Mr. Torrey began his work in Toronto, we felt rebuked for not having had faith to pray for a world wide revival. Dr. Williams the synodical missionary of Illinois has had 10,000 cards printed with this pledge: "I will pray daily for a world-wide revival until it comes. And I will ask God that he begin the revival with me." If it begins with "me," and means the downfall of "Meism" what a revival the world would have. God grant there may be such a revival and that it may indeed begin with me.

W. H. JORDAN,

Carroll, Iowa.

THE CZAR IN HIS TIME OF TRIAL.

W. T. Stead, who has come into close personal contact with the Czar, gives in a recent article, the following pen picture of the man and the situation:

Since General Gordon stood in guard in the citadel of Khartum, I know of no human situation so charged with pathos and tragedy, so calculated to thrill the heart of mankind, as that which is presented at Peterhof to-day. The parallel, both political and personal, is terribly complete. The lone, slight figure of the Czar, as he stands alone at Peterhof confronting the ever-rising flood of anarchy, which threatens to submerge Russia, bears a singular resemblance to the far Sudan. The resemblance in height, complexion and color of the eyes and hair is remarkable, but it is still more marked in the supreme and dominating characteristic. Since General Gordon gave me a copy of Thomas a Kempis, as he bade me his last farewell, I have met no man who was imbued to the same extent with the spirit of simple religious faith as the present Emperor. It is the sole secret of the marvelous composure and cheerful calm which is the amazement, the envy, and the inspiration of all those who are admitted to the confidence of the Czar. Call it fatalism, fanaticism, if you will, it has at least secured today for Russia, in the midst of an atmosphere that is hot with fever, one cool head and one stout heart unaffected by the delirium and the terrors of the revolutionary storm. The throne may be reeling, but its occupant is neither sick nor giddy nor afraid. His only fear is that he may fail in understanding what is the will of God. If that be quite clear, then "though He slay me yet will I trust in Him." Nothing is more exact than the parallel between the Czar of the Duma and General Gordon in 1885. Both men began to rule, the one in Russia, the other in Sudan, on very different lines. Gordon was once Governor General of the Egyptian oppressor. Nicholas II., in his tender youth, was made to pose as the inflexible champion of ancient autocracy. Now there is nothing which he is not willing to do to save his people and to save Russia. He has voluntarily limited his autocracy, and he is prepared to go much further in that direction—indeed, to go as far as anyone,—so soon as he

is clear as to his duty. He is a Gordon in his selfless devotion to what he sees to be right. But he has not Gordon's magnificent assurance as to his insight into the divine counsels which was the inspiration of his genius. Neither is he, as Gordon was, a man of restless energy and indomitable will. Hence, his very excessive conscientiousness and natural modesty lead to hesitation, the parent of delay, and that delay, which rendered possible the Japanese war, has been the chief contributing cause to the excessive danger of the present crisis. Allowances should be made for the vis inertia of the bureaucratic machine. Even Peter the Great could not speed it up beyond a certain point, and Nicholas II. has neither the demonic energy nor the ruthless will of his great predecessor.

The pace of reform in Russia in the last twelve months has been abnormally rapid, and neither the Emperor nor his counsellors realized the deadly urgency of instant decision and resolute action.

Hence, the avalanche of revolution descending upon the glacier of official routine finds it often easier to destroy and overwhelm than to quicken the speed of the glacial progress.

But although the Emperor postponed till after the eleventh hour the concessions which he had personally assured me, two months before, he was firmly resolved to make, it is still possible it may not have been too late. Round the Emperor now, definitely embarked upon the new era of constitutional liberty, there should rally every man who has a heart to feel, a head to reflect, or wife and children whom he cares to save from the horrors of anarchy.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

The legal Frees at Strachur recently formed themselves into a congregation and Rev. Robert Hill was appointed minister, and recently he has been greatly annoyed by the receipt of threatening letters.

The U. S. Presbytery are arranging to celebrate the semi-jubilee of Rev. Mr. McKenzie, Galashiels.

The funeral of Rev. Dr. Stewart of Lovedale took place on the 26th ult. at Sandelskop, Cape Colony.

About 1,200 applications have been received by the Distress Committee, Glasgow, for temporary employment.

There has been sunk between Giffnock and Thornliebank a pit for the Giffnock Collieries Ltd. The depth is 540 feet, and almost the whole of the digging was through solid rock.

A collection of 16,000 postage stamps, and a collection of the agates of Scotland, have been presented to the Royal Scottish Museum.

Liverpool has the longest penny tramway routes of any in the kingdom, some of them nearly three miles long.

It is proposed to establish wireless telegraphy at St. Abb's Head to report the movements of ships entering and leaving the Forth.

Last year there were exported from Campbelltown 1,046,801 gallons of whisky, as compared with 1,006,635 gallons in 1904—a decrease of 49,234 gallons.

An Alloo boy asked, "Did you never hear of such a thing as returning good for evil?" The reply was "No" in Sauchie way."

Miss Ann Sinclair, an aged resident of Nairn, passed away on the 9th inst. at the age of 90 years. Deceased was for 11 years a resident of Toronto, Ont.

All the schools in Falkirk have been closed owing to the prevalence of measles and mumps. In Camelon district the epidemic is quite severe.

In a published work giving a description of Scotland in the reign of Queen Mary it is stated that Stirling was then the fourth town in the country for size.

Lake Morat, in Switzerland, has the curious property, every tenth year, of turning red, owing to the presence of certain water plants, which are not found in any other lake in the world.