

MANY of Mr. Marling's old friends, in Toronto, and everywhere else, will be glad to see his picture at the front of this number. A local political orator in Galt, whom we knew in our boyhood, said once, in the fervor of his declamation, that "he was a native Canadian; though born in Ireland." So we may say, Mr. Marling is a native Canadian, though born in England; and we are glad to have him back again in the Dominion, after his several years' sojourn in the States.

MR. MOODY closed his three weeks' series of meetings at Pittsburg, Sunday evening, Dec. 11. The meetings on that day were attended by from twelve to fifteen thousand people, and it is believed that the result of the work will be a large number of accessions to the churches. After the holidays Mr. Moody will spend a month in Louisville, where a tabernacle seating 5000 people is being built for his use. After leaving Louisville, Mr. Moody will spend the rest of the winter and early spring on the Pacific coast—*Advance*.

ARRANGEMENTS are now making for a General Missionary Conference to be held in London from the 10th to the 20th of June next. It will then be ten years since the Midway Conference met, and the progress in missionary work within this decade has been such that another conference seems eminently desirable. Forty-eight British societies engaged in foreign missions have joined in the movement, leaving only the Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel unrepresented. The American societies will doubtless be represented; and we hope our various Canadian Missionary Societies may also take part. Keep the thing moving. Light always comes out of such gatherings.

ONCE upon a time—on a busy Saturday—we received a telegram from Toronto, "Can you preach for us to-morrow, if we send substitute?" We answered the *statutory* ten words in the affirmative. A very young brother, who is now making a good name for himself in the ministry, preached with considerable power, and great acceptance. We wondered why he did not preach at home; but a little reflection made it clear. A beginner *will do better outside, than at home!* And here lies a hint for the churches. Send out

your young men (and "two and two" is best) and let them hold meetings on the Sabbath! And when they rehearse to you, at your Wednesday evening meeting, what the Lord had been doing by them, you will rejoice together. Try it!

MR. MACDONNELL has made another small sensation. Ministers in Toronto are exempt from paying taxes up to a thousand dollars of their income, and Mr. M., with his brother Protestant ministers, has duly paid his rate; but it appears that the Roman Catholic clergy, from the Bishop downward, have never paid a cent, affirming that they have not the income; they say that the regular priests, not having families, do not require and do not get large pay, and that the Bishop with his suite of priests are catered for in all their wants by a Chancellor, and they have no salary to require them to pay taxes. Of course this is a subterfuge, technically true, perhaps, but morally false, and Mr. M. has taken the position that he will not pay taxes if the Roman Catholic Bishop and priests are not compelled to do so; if he protests, as no doubt he will, notwithstanding the "do be a good boy and don't make a noise" of the *Globe*, Toronto will have a lively incident when the next taxes are payable. H.

"WHERE is Mr. M.?" "He has gone to the village. He'll be back soon. To-morrow is one of the boys' birthdays. I have pledged two of them on their birthdays, never to drink, never to swear, and never to keep bad company; and have given each of them a *gold dollar*, to keep as long as they live, in memory of their promise and of their mother. And Mr. M. said he would try and get me a gold dollar in the village to-day. I am anxious to get it; for I'll never see all the birthdays another year!" And she looked more like heaven than earth, as she said it! far gone with wasting disease. And we took a *gold dollar* off our watch-guard—she hadn't seen it, but it was there; hadn't it been given to us (for it was given!) for just some such purpose? "Here, take this! he won't be apt to get one; they are scarce now."

And the mother went to her heavenly rest, in a few months. And the "boys" are all now, after a lapse of some ten years, well-principled Christian men; two of them in the little church that was their mother's; the other two in an honorable profession.