

Miss Brundrette, Messrs. Crane and H. Stevens, and Harmony Camp, Peterborough. Mr. Simpson gave a humorous vocal selection and Mr. T. S. Cole, Toronto, gave several taking recitations. All the members were well received and rapturously applauded by the audience present on the rocks, and in the canoes, which dotted the lake around the island. The evening's performance was concluded by all singing God Save the Queen. Afterwards Harmony Camp bade our visitors a vocal farewell in appropriate camp songs, etc. It has cheered us to hear many bearing testimony to the good influence the camp has exerted upon many personally, and to all who are privileged to spend their vacation in that health giving resort, Stoney Lake. We propose now to get out an attractive programme for next season and by this means draw many more to the back lakes during the summer months. All of us have felt it was good to be there and return to work with new energy and zeal for our life work. Mr. Cole will continue to hold services each Sabbath during this month, weather permitting, on Juniper Island. Sincere thanks are due to Mr. G. M. Roger and his relatives for many kindnesses shown to all, doing all in their power to make the stay both pleasant and profitable.

THE VIRDEN *Advance* says: The Presbyterians of Virden should now be a happy people, for they have at last got into their new building, and a very handsome and commodious one it is too. The building is 70 x 38 feet, the walls being sixteen feet high, fifteen feet at the west end being taken off for two class-rooms. It is well lighted with a number of windows, composed of frosted and coloured glass. The cost of the building when complete will be about \$3,000. A preparatory service was held on Friday evening, when Rev. D. H. Hodges, of Oak Lake, preached the sermon. Three services were held on Sunday, those in the morning and evening being conducted by Dr. Duval, of Winnipeg, at both of which the church was crowded to the doors. The Doctor preached two eloquent sermons, and was listened to with rapt attention. At the close of the morning sermon the church was solemnly dedicated to the worship of God. The sermon in the afternoon was preached by Rev. A. Andrews, Methodist minister of this town, after which the communion of the Lord's Supper was administered. It is pleasing to notice that the different denominations work together so harmoniously here, as is proved from the fact that the Methodists withheld their service for the occasion. The collections of the day, which go to the building fund, amounted to about \$85. A very successful tea-meeting was held in the town hall on Monday evening, in spite of the unfavourable weather, the tables being filled several times. Palatable and tasty food, and plenty of it, with pretty and obliging waiters, made this a very enjoyable affair, and the promoters have just cause to be proud of their success. After the tea a move was made to the church, where the Rev. Dr. Duval, of Knox Church, Winnipeg, delivered one of the best lectures ever given in our town (or indeed any other town) on "How to Succeed," and the management of the church here are to be congratulated on the honour of receiving the thanks of an appreciative audience for securing the services of this distinguished Christian gentleman and scholar to visit our town. Following is a brief digest of the lecture: Be efficient—be able to do something well. Be courageous—be not afraid to follow out your convictions. Be persevering—go on to the end and never waver. Be honest—no pretence will do. The entire fabric will some day collapse if mere pretension be in the foundation. Be temperate. Drink has slaughtered millions. Let no young woman marry a drunkard because she loves and wishes to save him. I have never known a case where this succeeded. Before marriage the woman has the man—after marriage the man has the woman. Be chaste. Impurity is contrary to God's unchangeable law of success, and he can never succeed who does not keep himself pure so that he may gather himself together for life's conflict. Be godly. No man can be a real success without this. He may gather a little money, may secure a little political distinction, may be able to secure positions of importance in the business world, but as in all nature the higher is served by the lower, so here—the grass supports the cattle, the cattle serve man by feeding his physical nature, the physical nature serves the intellectual nature that is in him, and the intellectual nature sustains the soul. Our highest being, and the trinity in man—the physical, mental and spiritual in glorious combination of trinity in unity—only attains its supreme excellence when its humble service is laid at the feet of Him who is all in all. At the conclusion of the lecture a vote of thanks was tendered the reverend lecturer. The proceeds of the tea and lecture amounted to about \$50. We must not forget to refer to the very efficient services rendered by the large choir, under the leadership of Mr. Bremner, both on Sunday and Monday, Mrs. Fitch ably presiding at the organ.

THE Halifax *Mail* says: Rev. Principal Grant occupied his old pulpit in St. Matthew's Church yesterday at both services. Those of the congregation who remember the familiar voice were delighted to hear it once more, and many were present from other churches. The sacrament of the Lord's supper was dispensed in the forenoon. Dr. Grant read as the second Scriptural lesson Matthew xvi. 1-23, and his sermon was based on the words in the sixth verse: "Then Jesus said unto them: Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." The opening verses furnish an interview between Jesus and representatives of the Church of that day—the Pharisees and Sadducees. They came to Him who was Himself admittedly the best and most convincing sign that had ever appeared on earth asking to give them what they called a sign. It was as if they had asked the light to give them something by which they could see. The disciples mistakingly interpreted what Jesus said to them in the words of the text, and there was a wrong spirit abroad in the Jewish Church. It was for us to avoid just such a mistake as the disciples made, and to avoid the sin of the Jews. We are no less liable to such error than were they. "Take heed and beware of the leaven." They knew what leaven was. The disciples were satisfied with a literal interpretation of the words; they seemed determined to understand them in their own way. Have we not done so? The experience of centuries shows we are as liable to this shortcoming as then. The very words of the institution of the Lord's Supper, which was to be observed to-day, had become not what they were intended to be, words of concord and love, but the battle cry of opposing parties. Each side was quite certain that what it held was the true meaning. One quoted the words: "This is my body," and what is the use of further argument in the face of a clear statement, says one; another said the substance was not exactly Christ's body, but also bread, while a third contended that it was bread only. So the Church sought to discourage enquiry and insist on its own interpretation. Surely the ludicrous interpretation of the disciples should have saved us from such mistakes. The one thing immediately necessary is to believe with our hearts that Jesus is the Christ. It is easier to persecute your brother because he does not believe in your infallibility than to live the life of Christ and act in His spirit. Luther, because he so insisted on his own interpretation of some parts of Scripture, hindered the reformation. His only answer to the arguments of those who differed with him as to the meaning of the passage was a constant repetition of the words in Latin, "This is my body." It was so, too, with baptism. One would think the Lord could not have opened a door wider; as to the mode he had said nothing. But the Church had divided on this and mutually excommunicated each other. The treatment of scientific truth had been similar. What could be more contrary to reason and sense said the Church at one time than that the sun did not go around the earth. Luther would probably have punished Copernicus as the inquisitors did Galileo. We have found the literal interpretation of Genesis absurd. The spirit of the Pharisees is a spirit which is probably as strong to-day as ever. They and the Sadducees were the two parties that constituted the Church. And what would we think of one, for instance, who would rise up and bid us beware of the spirit of the General Assembly or some supreme Synod. The humiliation of the Church is that it has not learned the spirit of

Christ as it is its glory that it is striving to attain that spirit. The two parties into which the Jewish Church was divided had developed from most excellent principles. The Pharisees had so grown that the true spirit of the law had become covered by multitudes of forms and ceremonies. The other party was characterized by love of the world and intellectual pride. What better principles were ever the beginning of a party than some of those from which the Sadducees sprang, but they were capable at least of the crime of murdering the Son of God. Beware, then, of the spirit of party in State or Church. Party is indeed needed. Men must fight in battalions. What is to be shunned is the making of party the end instead of the means. The man who stands aloof from party is often the most selfish. The preacher painted a word picture of the evil in the world and asked a reason for the weakness of the Church in view of such conditions. It is because the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees still abounds. We have not yet attained the necessary stature of Christian life. We have magnified the outward above the inward. The rich is estimated above the poor. The outward Church is too often placed higher than the Head of the Church. Profession was often esteemed above the reality. The sermon concluded with a fervent appeal to the congregation to strive after the higher life in sincerity, to accept of Christ as the only source of sufficient strength to finally accomplish the victory over evil.

PRESBYTERY OF BARRIE.—This Presbytery met at Barrie, August 19, to dispose of calls. That from Chester to Mr. Leishman, of Angus and New Lowell, was accepted by him. Presbytery agreed to sanction the translation, instructed Mr. Leishman to place himself at the disposal of Toronto Presbytery, and appointed Mr. Burnett, of Ayr, to declare the pulpits of Angus and New Lowell vacant on September 14, and to be Moderator of Session during the vacancy. A suitable resolution in parting with Mr. Leishman was adopted. The call from Erskine Church, Hamilton, to Dr. Campbell, of Collingwood, was declined by him and set aside by Presbytery. Able addresses were made for and against Dr. Campbell's translation by the commissioners, but after having given anxious consideration to the matter he found no reason why he should leave Collingwood.—ROBERT MOODIE, *Pres. Clerk*.

POINTE-AUX-TREMBLES AGAIN.

MONTHLY LETTER SCHEME.

Inquiries are coming in from various quarters: What have been the results of last winter's effort? The Minutes of the General Assembly have given results, and the reports of the French Evangelization Committee have gone out giving results, but still the news does not seem to reach all quarters where an interest has been taken. I have been asked to write a letter "giving results." If editors can have patience with me I would like to put it in a narrative form.

When the statement came in about the beginning of May that, instead of the \$5,000 still required, we had barely \$2,500, and that not exclusively in answer to our special appeals, surprise and disappointment were most keenly felt. The thing had been gone about "in the name of the Lord." Prayer from many hearts had gone up for the whole amount, plans had been laid for getting the whole amount, the agitation had been made extensive enough that, without miracle, large returns might be expected and yet the work aimed at was only half done.

"They shall not be ashamed that wait for Me." That was the verse that came up, but not with comfort. I have waited upon Him about this matter, and I am "ashamed." That was the way it seemed to me. Then the verse looked at me again: "They shall not be ashamed that wait for Me." I must not only wait upon Him but wait for Him, "as they that watch for the morning." But there seemed no time to wait. Either the building must be again postponed or it must be begun in face of a debt, either of which was a strange answer to faith. The allotted time was past and the work only half done. Faith staggered. Then came Christ's word to Jairus in circumstances so similar. He had given his child's case into Christ's hand. It had been accepted. Christ had lingered until the case was lost. And yet in face of death the Master's word was, "Fear not, believe only, and she shall be made whole." Fear not, believe only, and that building shall go up this summer, and that free of debt. Restful, rejoicing faith and persistent prayer—these were the right things in the circumstances, and text after text, promise after promise showed itself in its abundant sufficiency and applicability. When without any plan of mine the last appeal was published for the little letter that then appeared was written not as an appeal at all, but for insertion in the report, the hope was strong that God would use it. The centurion's explanation of Christ's power ending with "Speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed." That suite I exactly and seemed such simple and appropriate truth, "Speak the word only," and some of Thy servants will immediately obey. So when, May 30, Dr. Warden's kind letter came, letting me know that friends in Ottawa had authorized him to draw \$2,500 for the new building, I was not surprised, only deeply, deeply glad and thankful. The way of prayer and power was made clearer than ever I had seen it before. And other dear friends in distant quarters, who had felt the need and joined in the prayer, have joined in the thanksgiving too. "Sing unto the Lord for He hath done excellent things. This is known in all the earth." I would have liked to have written a letter at once letting anxious, watchful helpers know what a beautiful answer God had given, that the whole amount asked for had now been received. But circumstances that need not be explained made it, I thought, at that time imprudent to do so.

The building is now going up and is rapidly nearing completion. May the Lord Himself abundantly use it in His own blessed work.

ANNA ROSS

Brucefield, Ont., August 13, 1896.

P.S.—Concerning the furnishings for this new building I have just received a letter from Dr. Warden. As many have willingly come forward to help in putting up the building, are there not others who will just as willingly take their part in the furnishings? Here is an extract from the letter which will explain what is wanted: "Mrs. Dr. Parsons, Knox Church, Toronto, is to try to raise enough in their congregation to provide all the beds required (costing, I believe, \$1,000). We need everything new. Besides beds we require school desks and seats, kitchen furnishings, laundry fixtures, dining room tables and chairs, lamps, crockery, etc. We roughly estimate these as likely to cost about \$2,500, excluding the beds. This seems a large sum, but then it is for a large building, with accommodation for ninety-two, teachers and all. The old furniture was very old—some of it forty-five years—and in view of the new building we have renewed none of it for years. We are appealing to former pupils to help in the furnishings. We try to exercise the very strictest economy, consistent with efficiency and durability. We try ever to remember that it is the Lord's money we are using for His own work. We look to Him to supply us through His people with all that we really need."

Are there not some amongst us whose hearts shall be made willing? One who will undertake for the desks and seats, another for the kitchen furnishings. Some good housewife will look after the sheets, another the crockery, and another the knives and forks, and so on. Whatever is done must be done quickly, for all must be ordered by September 10. It is such a precious honour and privilege Christ gives up to be fellow-workers with Him in giving light to them that sit in darkness. Will it not be honouring to the Master we love that that house be opened free of debt, furnishings and all? A. R.

British and Foreign.

A NATIONAL Missionary Conference is to be held at Indianapolis, Ind., September 3-9.

PRINCESS LOUISE has completed a statue of the Queen, which is to be erected in Kensington.

THE benevolent contributions of the United States Congregational Churches last year are set down at \$2,398,037.

SOCIALISM, betting and gambling are among the subjects included in the programme of the next Manchester Diocesan Conference.

THE various bodies of Nonconformists in Leamington have formed themselves into an association for united moral, social and religious work.

DR. STEWART, of Lovedale Free Church Mission, Africa, preached both sermons at the anniversary services in Craigrownie Established Church, Loch Long.

THE first annual report of the New Hampshire commissioner of agriculture shows that of 1,342 abandoned farms in the state a year ago 301 are now occupied.

THE floating *Bethel* at Genoa has been sold for \$5,000 to the Maples Harbour Mission, and its place will be supplied by a sailors' rest on shore costing \$27,500.

THE students of New College propose to form a "settlement" for eight or ten of their number in the Pleasance district of Edinburgh where they carry on home mission work.

A NEW departure at the Wesleyan Conference this year was a cricket match, when eleven parsons played against eleven laymen; the latter were victorious by thirty-nine runs.

ADVICES from Yokohama are that qualified men declined to compete with the young men in the recent Japanese elections and consequently there is general disappointment at the result.

MR. T. R. PORTEOUS, who is to succeed Mr. Gray at Harri-smith, South Africa, is the son of Rev. J. Porteous, of Ballintrae. He was ordained by Ayr Presbytery at Girvan recently.

THE Rev. Charles Cooper, M.A., who supplied Principal Miller's place in the Madras Christian College during his absence, has arrived in Britain on his second furlough of eighteen months.

THE Defoe Chapel at Tooting, which lately passed from the Presbyterians to the Independents, is to be re-opened by Rev. Andrew Means, who for the present will discharge the duties of pastor.

THE mail coach service between London and Oxford has been revived. The service has been established in consequence of the heavy charges made for the conveyance of mails by the railway company.

A VOLUME of "Verses and Imitations," in Greek and Latin prose and verse, by William Wardlaw Waddell, a son of Dr. P. Hately Waddell, of Glasgow, contains a rendering in Latin of "Scots wha hae."

PROF. WATTS, of Belfast, assisted Mr. Macaskill, of Dingwall, at the communion on a recent Sunday, and his place in the Oban pulpit was taken by his son-in-law from Magee Cille, Londonderry.

THE International Old Catholic Congress is to be held September 12-14, at Cologne. The German, Swiss, and Austrian Old Catholics have a population, it is estimated, of about 120,000; besides these there are also 7,000 in Holland.

IT is understood that Dr. Arthur T. Pierson has consented to undertake a brief tour among the churches in behalf of the work of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions. It is probable that he will enter upon this work in the early autumn.

DR. OLIVER, of Regent Place U. P. Church, Glasgow, has been preaching at Stornaway during his holidays. In his early days the venerable minister taught a private school at Stornaway, and many of his old scholars crowded to hear him.

MR. JOSEPH CONNELLAN, a brother of Father Thomas Connellan, has followed the example of the latter by seceding from the Roman Church; he publishes an account of his conversion in a pamphlet entitled "From Bondage to Liberty."

AT a public soiree held in Rothesay recently Dr. Williamson, of Kingarth, was presented with a cheque for \$4,000 on his retiring from the ministry. Sir William Mackinnon, Bart., of Ballinakill, presided. Dr. Williamson was ordained in 1844.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Record* is said to have recognized in the curate of a south country parish a Jesuit whom he had often heard preach in Rome. This Jesuit, who is said to have previously held several curacies in England, fled as soon as identified.

DR. GEORGE SMITH, secretary of the Free Church Missions, bitterly complains that the only sanatorium of the Livingstonia Mission, above the 4,000 feet fever limit, at the north end of Lake Nyasa, has been sacrificed to the Germans, quite unnecessarily in his opinion.

HADDINGTON Presbytery agreed to accept the offer of \$3,750 by the heritors towards the restoration of Prestonpans Church, but Mr. Smith, its minister, who does not think that even \$10,000 would cover the legal obligations of the heritors, intimated his determination to appeal to the civil courts.

THE Rev. R. Lawson, of Maybole, intends to devote his brief holiday to a pilgrimage to some of the sacred places of Scotland, including Iona, St. Andrew's, Dunfermline, Dunblane, Anwoth, Kilmany, Blantyre, etc. His open air meetings on Sunday afternoons during the past month have been largely attended.

THE Rev. John Sellar, of Portobello, in his morning discourse on a recent Sunday, pointed to the liberties taken with the sacredness of the Sabbath as one of the ominous signs of the decadence of our age, at once a symptom and a cause of national degeneration. Sunday evening concerts on Portobello pier are attended by thousands of people.

THE Rev. Dr. Wright, of the British and Foreign Bible Society, has returned from a tour to China. He attended the Shanghai Conference for the purpose of securing uniform versions of the Scriptures; and a series of resolutions was unanimously agreed to by the Conference which will, it is expected, secure uniformity in the different translations in the future.

THE Rev. Dr. G. F. Pentecost, formerly of Brooklyn, expects to sail from New York on September 6 on his way to India, where he will do evangelistic work. The following month he leaves England accompanied by a party of friends from that country and Scotland. In India the company will be added to by a number of helpers from this country, among whom will probably be Mr. Ira D. Sankey.

SOME leading supporters of the Church Missionary Society attending the Keswick Convention have drawn up an appeal to the society for 1,000 missionaries, to be forthcoming in the next five years. They suggest that evangelists should go in groups, that the services of laymen should be used much more than hitherto, and that mechanics and workmen and women should form parts of the groups, with a view to providing industrial training.

DR. J. HOOD WILSON, of Edinburgh, in the funeral sermon at Ayr on the late Rev. Andrew Rowand, said they had been fellow-students. From Principal Cunningham Mr. Rowand got an impulse, as regarded the holding and teaching of evangelical truth which he never lost. His first practical work was at Irvine, where he succeeded Dr. Wilson as missionary, and where they had such experience among the poor and non-churchgoing that they both became ministers of territorial churches.