

Contributors and Correspondents

MISSION NOTES IN MUSKOKA.

BY REV. R. ROGERS, COLLINGWOOD.

Having received a Presbyterial appointment to visit Rosseau, and disperse the Communion, we took the Steamer "Wabuno" for Parry Sound on the morning of the 14th inst. The day proved fine, and we had a splendid sail. The beauty of the scenery is too well known to need description here, passing as we do among thousands of islands of great variety of size and appearance. We cannot bid good-bye to our boat, without testifying to the urbanity and courtesy of the captain and crew, who did everything to make our journey agreeable.

Parry Sound gives evidence of improvement. A good school house and a large temperance hall are important additions to its public edifices.

The Seguin House, which is conducted on temperance principles, is a very comfortable home for travellers, and we understand the business is fairly remunerative. At this season, the road leading to Rosseau, owing to the heavy rains is almost impassable; the mail has for some time been carried only on horseback. On learning this state of things, we felt as if further progress was arrested. But Mr. Beatty, when he knew our difficulty, with his wonted kindness and generosity, provided a conveyance, and sent us safely through to Rosseau. We shall not soon forget the timely and substantial relief thus afforded. At Rosseau we received a cordial welcome at Mr. Best's, whose residence commands a good view of the lake.

Next morning we went by boat to a settlement on the west side of the lake, where we held an interesting meeting, and baptized eight children.

This is a small settlement cut off from all others, as yet consisting of three Scotchmen with their families, and a single Englishwoman; they seem cheerful and contented. Returning we had service at Rosseau Junction, preparatory to the Communion. The Sabbath proved to be cold and rather unpleasant, but we had a fair gathering, and a very delightful service. Twenty persons took part in the communion, and we trust it was a season of refreshing in the wilderness.

After a ride of eight miles, we met another congregation at the residence of Mr. Ross, north of Turtle Lake. The company was small, numbering only about 30, but in respectability of appearance, gravity of demeanor, and earnestness of manner, they forcibly reminded us of a sober country church in the old land. Eighteen of these engaged in the commemoration of the Saviour's death. At the close of the service we baptized two children, one of them being only three days old. Having enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. Ross and his family, we set out on our way to Rosseau. The night was pleasant, the moon shining brightly, and our journey was being accomplished very pleasantly, when the horse on which we rode slipped, and fell on his side, severely bruising and completely disabling our right foot. We succeeded in reaching Mr. Best's, but found that our missionary tour has been suddenly and painfully arrested. We have reasons to fear that we shall not be able to attend to public duties for several weeks. This to us is a painful and trying providence, but is doubtless kindly designed and wisely ordered.

In connection with our Mission work, there are several things that call for grave and thoughtful consideration. It is admitted by those who have observed the working of our Mission Fields, that very much of our labor is lost. What is gained during the summer, scarcely suffices to secure continued existence during the winter, and thus anything like substantial advancement is impossible. We are fully aware that a perfect remedy for this state of things is not attainable at once. But the call to carry out the course on which we have already entered, of settling ordained missionaries in our new fields for a lengthened period, is very loud and imperative.

At Parry Sound this want is felt very deeply, and unless this is done, our cause in that place might as well be abandoned. In saying this, we speak the sentiment of every Presbyterian in the District; the same holds true to some extent at Rosseau. Around these centres the number of Presbyterians is very considerable, and as far as we have learned concerning them, they are a very industrious and highly respectable class of settlers. As corroborative of the voice of the people in this matter, we would refer to one field of six stations, where the people have formally concluded

that unless a missionary is settled among them for a year or two years, they do not feel like sustaining ordinances at all. It is to be hoped that the liberal measures which have been devised for such places as Prince Arthur's Landing, and the Sault St. Marie, will be followed up with measures equally liberal and efficient in other Mission Districts. Were this done, our cause would in many places be speedily and greatly established, and the resources for the support of ordinances much more effectually drawn out.

There is another thing about some, at least, of our Mission Fields which requires to be noted. Their progress towards a self-supporting condition is likely to be slow. This is notably the case with the Districts of Parry Sound, and Muskoka. The land is rough, the population sparse, and the accumulation of means exceedingly slow, we fear that in regard to many stations in these Districts, it must be said to the church, "the poor ye have always with you." This is not a very encouraging aspect of the case, but we have reason to affirm that it is even so. And if as a church, we are to hold the position we ought to occupy in these districts, largely liberal measures must be devised for some time to come. We would not like to say anything to lessen the self-reliance and helpfulness of the settlers, and we fully believe, that if a thorough organization for working was initiated in our stations, very much more could be accomplished by the people themselves. But allowing that something could be gained in this way, there will still be a very loud call on the liberality of the church, for these outlying districts. What is needed is large additions to the Lord's treasury. Let our people whom God has prospered in the world, remember their brethren in these new places, and let us not be weary in well-doing, for in this season we shall reap if we faint not.

One thing more we desire to refer to. In the Parry Sound District there is not one Presbyterian place of worship. And as far as we know, there is as yet no definite movement in that direction. And in the Muskoka District, there are only two churches, one at Bracebridge, and one at South Falls, both quite small, not being capable of holding over one hundred each. This is a most undesirable state of things. There can be no permanency, no consolidation, no lasting prosperity to our work, till this be remedied. How to do this presents rather serious difficulties. The people unaided are inadequate to the task. They might no doubt be more liberal and zealous than they are, but in many cases the means are simply not available. Now, here is a field of Christian work, to which the church is most earnestly and imperatively called. Why could not our men of wealth do something efficient in this matter? Or could not a fund to aid in building churches in destitute localities be originated by the Assembly? Or might not self-appointed patrons take charge of certain districts and leave behind them lasting memorials in the shape of commodious temples, in which to worship the only living and true God? If five or ten thousand dollars were spent annually in this way, how many hearts would be made glad, how much honor would be brought to the Master, and how would it serve to lengthen the cords and strengthen the stakes of our Zion. It is gratifying to know that something is already done, and more contemplated, in this direction. And we hope ere long to see at Gravenhurst, Rosseau, and Monk, monuments of true hearted Christian liberality. We could write much more, but our object was simply to call attention to the subject. And if we have succeeded, in giving any additional prominence to our mission work, or in awakening new resolves to more liberality and devotion in the establishment of Christ's cause and kingdom, our end has been gained.

NEW YORK CORRESPONDENCE.

BY A CANADIAN STUDENT.

MR. EDITOR.—In compliance with your request before leaving Toronto, these hurried jottings are sent, which may possibly interest your out-of-the-way readers. We shall aim at brevity, and thereby escape the odium which was so justly called forth by those long-winded and tedious letters (which nobody read) from various parts of Canada, in your paper during last winter, and some since. As a matter of experience, we might here suggest that you would greatly elevate your paper in the estimation of your readers by excluding long letters, or by limiting them to—say a column in length—except in cases of unusual interest, such as those from a student in Germany, now appearing in the

We cannot attempt a description of anything in particular in this letter, but may indicate as an exordium what can be touched again with interest and profit. It would outrage the advice given above to dilate on our unpleasant trip on the Great Western Railway—very pleasant one in Pullman car, over N. Y. Central, with Lord Dufferin and Countess Dufferin along, too. *En passant*, we may add these noble visitors staying at the Brevoort House, over which floats the British flag, within our view from the Seminary. It may seem puerile, but it gratifies one to see that old Union Jack, as it reminds us of our home, country and friends. Nor can we take time to relate our impressions of places along the way of historic interest, pointed out by an intelligent American—such as the place where Major Audie was taken, also the homestead where Washington Irving lived, wrote, and died; the little sheet of water around which he meandered, from whose charming scenery he drew the inspiration, and whose cosy retreats he has immortalized; nor the suburban mansions of city magnates. Then comes the Grand Central Depot. As an evidence of the amount of traffic on this road, two new tracks are being laid for freight trains, making four in all. Since arriving, many places of interest have occupied our attention, e.g., Fifth Avenue, Grand Central, Clarendon, Grand Hotels; A. T. Stewart's stores, Cooper Union, new Tribune office, many "squares," parks, &c.

Many of our student-readers—our old college companions—will naturally be anxious to hear something about Union Theological Seminary; we would like to gratify them, did your space permit. However, a minute criticism of the Professors and students would be obviously premature. It may be sufficient for the present to state that the half-dozen Canadian students here are all highly pleased with the Institution generally. The Professors are popular with the Alumni; and as to the students, more courteous, gentlemanly, noble-hearted young men we have never mingled with. No doubt association with them will do us good in different ways. Before closing, we must drop a word about the noted preachers we have heard.

The first we went to hear, was our Canadian orator, Dr. Oatman, at his weekly prayer meeting. It delighted us to listen once more to his thrilling appeals, which have lost none of their soul-stirring power since we first heard him in Canada—not to overlook the clearing influence of the many touch of his paternal hand. After the usual lecture, he gave a vivid sketch of his vacation tour, including a visit to Canada, embracing Montreal, Whitby, Hamilton, &c. Some of your readers will perhaps be on the *qui vivis* to hear some thing from us of the now celebrated Henry Ward Beecher. Well, we have heard him, also at his weekly prayer meeting. Without dilating, we may observe: His discourse, or talk—for he sat leisurely at the rear of a platform, resting his arm on a bookstand beside him—was on the sufferings of Christ; it was beautiful, chiefly for its simplicity, naturalness, and the lucid, telling illustrations used; it occupied less than fifteen minutes. What we admired most was his opening prayer—the touching pathos and far-reaching application to every want and woe of the human heart. It cannot be represented. The latter part of the service was conducted similar to a Methodist class-meeting, persons standing up in the audience narrating their religious experience, and Beecher acting as class leader, interspersing advice, etc., in an easy, social way. The audience was large, intelligent, and to all human appearance, devout. We must confess we were all favorably disappointed in this respect. As to Beecher's theology and sermons, we can't say much favourable, but reserve criticism to another time.

New York, Oct. 19, 1874.

PREBYTERIAN COLLEGE, MONTREAL.

STUDENTS' MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the above society took place on Friday Evening, 30th Oct. The attendance of members was, as usual, large. After the transaction of routine business, the Society's missionaries for the past summer read very interesting and highly encouraging reports of their work, as follows:—

DESERT AND SIX PORTAGES, on the Upper Gatouan River, in the Presbytery of Ottawa, —Mr. Boudreau, the missionary at this place—reports decided progress.

This field was taken up by the society in the summer of 1873—Mr. Hamilton occupying it for four months, conducting service in English and French—Mr. Boudreau also did English as well as French work. He reports a deep interest on the part of the people, tangible evidence of which is shown in their liberal contributions to the funds of the society, and the building of a place of worship costing \$700.

This place will receive occasional supply during the winter from the missionary at Alymer.

SOUTH BRANCH AND SUMMERSTOWN, were occupied by Mr. J. M. MacLeod, the society's missionary in the same place for summer of 1873. Mr. McL. reports very favorably indeed. The results attending his labours during the past two summers have been such as to encourage the Society to continue the work in this too long neglected field with increased energy.

L'AMABLE, YORK RIVER EGAN FARM, AND THANET, AND RIDGE ON HASTINGS ROAD.

This field was occupied for the first time by the society in 1873. The extent and importance of the field being such as to warrant the society in sending two instead of one missionary, the society last spring re-appointed Mr. W. D. Russell to the first three stations, and Mr. W. Gray to the last two. The reports of both missionaries indicate a deepened interest, increased liberality, and not a few gratifying tokens of spiritual results—six names having been added to the membership of the group under the charge of Mr. Russell.

Messrs. Muir and MacMartin reported favorably of the mission in the East end of the city. The financial statement of the Treasurer showed the expenditure of the society for the past year to have been a little over \$1500.00, with a balance on hand.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year, viz:—

President, D. MacRae; 1st Vice Do, W. M. McKibbin; 2nd Vice Do, C. Brouillette; Recording Secretary, A. L. Morton; Corresponding Do, M. H. Scott; Treasurer, J. Allan, B. A.; Committee, Messrs. Russell, McKay, Gray, Tully, and McLennan.

A CHAPTER FROM A NEW EDITION OF THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLE.

At the late meeting of the Evangelical alliance, Dr. Dawson in the course of his address on "Modern Christianity from the point of view of Modern Science," told his audience that some men of Science were thinking that a new edition of the Acts of the Apostles might be of use in view of practices now obtaining in many churches, and gave a verbal sketch of one chapter which might be published. The substance was as follows:

While the Apostle Paul was at Ephesus a tumult occurred by which his life was endangered; and it was on this wise. The silver-smiths of the city was so exasperated by the loss of trade which resulted from the decrease in idolatry owing to there being no sale for the shrines of Diana, that they conspired to put Paul to death. It was suggested however by some friends of the Apostle that the enmity of the silver-smiths might be overcome. So they proposed that instead of shrines the workmen of doctrines and associates should make little images of the Saviour and His Mother, the Virgin Mary. In these there at once sprung up a great demand, and through the influence of the Apostles the images were sent to distant cities, and the trade became very lucrative. Of course the silver-smiths were satisfied as they were more prosperous than ever, and found that Christianity brought even greater gain than the worship of Diana. So they were converted to the new faith, were baptized and received into the Church at Ephesus. The Church, by reason of the advantage which it conferred on its members, gradually attracted others to itself and became wealthy. Soon it was resolved to have a building more imposing than the original place of meeting, corresponding to the wealth, respectability and social position of the leading Ephesians who were now joined to the Church, and which might attract heathens to the true religion. So they got up a series of bazaars, festivals and entertainments, which took well with the people; thus they realised a large sum of money, and were able to build a magnificent Church, which rivalled the famous temple of Diana in splendour though not in size. A most imposing ritual with impressive ceremonies and gorgeous robes was instituted; and musical services, second only to the grand performances of the heathen temple, were introduced. This attracted a large portion of the fashion and fine taste of Ephesus, and as the Church was soon filled with the elite of Greek society, the congregation became very wealthy, and being able to offer a large salary, they sent a call to the Apostle John, who accepted it, and became first bishop of Ephesus, and obtained great influence throughout all Asia by reason of the important position which he occupied.—COMMUNICATED.

THE Synod of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces, and the Synod of the Church of Scotland, in session at New Glasgow, have declared for Union; the first named unanimously and the other by a vote of 26 to 7.

MINISTERS who have not yet answered our Circular of 12th September last, are earnestly requested to do so at once. In every case we enclosed a postal card for reply.

THE statement as to results of recent Evangelistic work in three congregations, made in Mr. Roge's letter two weeks ago, should have been, "an aggregate addition of 257 members," instead of 167.

Church Opening.

At Bishopsgate, Burford, on Sabbath 25th Oct., 1874, the new Presbyterian Church was dedicated to the worship and service of God by the Rev. Thomas Alexander officiating in the forenoon, Rev. Thomas Lowery in the afternoon, and Rev. Wm. Cochran in the evening. At all the services there was a large attendance, especially in the evening. The sum of \$45 was collected. On Tuesday 27th, a sumptuous repast was provided by the ladies belonging to the Congregation, assisted by other kind friends. An immense gathering took place at the brick Hall, Mount Vernon, and the weather was every way favourable. After partaking of refreshments, they repaired to the W. M. Church kindly granted for the purpose, to hear addresses from brethren who had come from a distance to lend their countenance and aid.

The chair was occupied by Rev. Thos. Alexander.

After an appropriate piece of music by Miss Heaton and her choir, Mr. A. called upon Messrs. McMullen of Woodstock, McQuarry of Princeton, Farries of Paris, and Lowry of Brantford, who addressed the audience, congratulating Mr. A. and the Presbyterian Congregation on having seen the completion of so neat and handsome a Church in so short a time and at so reasonable an expense.

Before the close of the meeting, it was announced that \$125 had been realized by the supper, which called forth the applause of the meeting. It was then stated that upwards of \$100 more would be required to put that Church out of debt, when it was immediately proposed by a kind friend from Brantford that he would give \$10 if the whole sum was made up *there and then*. At it they went with a right good will, and in a few minutes the whole sum and \$5 more were raised, thus making in all by collections, refreshments and subscriptions \$275, calling forth again the unbounded applause of the people. It is just about one month since a movement was made towards the erection of a Church there, and it has now been completed and opened free of debt.

Mr. A. feels truly grateful to those individuals and congregations who have aided in this good work, to the ministers who addressed the meeting, to the ladies who provided the refreshments, and to Miss Heaton and choir, he begs leave to return his sincere thanks for their services.

The Church is a very plain but neat structure, in a good locality, of beautiful workmanship within, furnished with every comfort and convenience both for minister and people. Mr. A., who has been supplying Mount Pleasant and Burford for the last two years, has received and accepted of a call from their congregation, and his induction is appointed to take place at Mount Pleasant on Monday, 9th Nov., two o'clock.—COM.

Church Building in Muskoka.

EDITOR BRITISH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN.

DEAR SIR,—As many friends in different parts of the country are wishful to know how I succeeded when last at the front collecting on behalf of church building in Muskoka, I beg to say that the amount I obtained was near upon \$500. All the ministers in the Synod of Toronto have been supplied with circulars, and no doubt they will do their best to help us in raising the sum required, viz., \$2,000. The Presbytery of Simcoe has granted me an absence of three weeks more for the same object; and I purpose to start for Toronto and other places on Tuesday, the 10th inst. Besides the four churches we have in hand—Bracebridge, Gravelhurst, Moseck, and South Falls—the friends at Rosseau and Port Carling are moving for new churches. In fact the "fields are white already to harvest."

Grateful to all friends who have assisted us in these arduous but important undertakings, I remain, dear sir,

Yours very truly,

JOHN MARPLES.

Bracebridge, Nov. 2nd.

Worthy of Mention.

EDITOR BRITISH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN.

DEAR SIR.—As we are busily engaged in building a Presbyterian Church here, and feel grateful for any help we may receive from outsiders, I hope you will insert the following: Last week I wrote to the Hon. W. E. Dodge, of New York, appealing to his Christian benevolence for a subscription, and the result was, that almost by return of mail I received an order for \$50 in gold. Now, Sir, when we consider the daily requests of this kind that he receives from weak stations in his own country; that I was an entire stranger to him; and not only so, but belonged to another church, is he not deserving of at least some credit for his large heartedness? I therefore, in the meantime, through your paper, express the thanks of the building committee for the substantial kindness of the Hon. W. E. Dodge. It will certainly put a beam in the Lord's house, and I sincerely hope that some of our wealthy people in Toronto will follow his example. We must extend our efforts outside of Newmarket in order to increase our subscription list, for we are few in number here, and need some encouragement. If some of the city congregations knew the wants of this place as well as I do, and were willing to do a good work for the cause of Christ, they would soon come to the help of the struggling few. Hoping you will give the above a place in your columns,

I am,

Yours truly,

Newmarket, Nov. 3rd. JOHN R. BARRISSE