

OUR CONTRIBUTORS.

PRINCETON NOTES.

Another vacation has passed, and the winter work has recommenced. The various colleges and seminaries have been open now for some time. The students, to use one of their own expressions, have "got down to work." Princeton Theological Seminary opened on the 4th Sept. with bright prospects for the session. The junior class is quite large, numbering forty or more. It has on its roll the names of three Canadians from Nova Scotia. The middle class retains its size of last year. The senior class has decreased in number by two or three.

The same progressive activity which marked Princeton in the Spring greeted the returning student this Fall. New dwellings completed, and others in the course of erection, are adding to the beauty of an already beautiful town. Among new edifices of interest are the new library and two new dwelling houses, the property of the Seminary. The library building is being erected by Mr. Robert Lenox, of New York, who also intends filling many of the shelves with standard books. Mr. Lenox is sparing no expense to have the building second to none in the country. It is in the design of the Renaissance, built of red brick, relieved with lines of black brick, and faced with light freestone. Mr. Lenox retains it in his own hands until completely finished, when he will present the keys to the Seminary authorities. It, and the new dwellings, which are of the same style and material, are in the same enclosure with the old library. They face Stockton street, the dwellings being close to the street and so far apart as to be on parallel lines passing either end of the library. The library runs parallel with the street, presenting its main entrance, and can be easily seen between the two dwellings. The group presents a very fine appearance. The library building is pronounced by experts to be the finest one in Princeton. Much improvement has been made around Stewart Hall, the new building of last year. The grounds have been graded and laid out in walks. Altogether Princeton Theological Seminary has an air of lively prosperity.

Yet amidst it all there is a feeling of sadness in traversing the grounds, for the thought is ever present that one who was beloved will be seen there no more. On approaching the chapel, one is hushed, or rather awed, into silence, for there are the emblems of mourning in memory of one of Princeton's great and honored ones. But it is that reverential sorrow as for a loss which is continually expected and which is prepared for, but which, it is fondly hoped, may not be very near. Dr. Hodge's death, though expected, was quite sudden. He attended the funeral of Prof. Henry, of Washington, an intimate friend. The journey, and grief at the loss of his friend, seemed too much for him, for shortly after his return home he began rapidly to fail and died on June 19th. His place in the Seminary had already been provided for, and the work of the session goes on as usual. It is proposed to erect in the chapel three tablets to the memory of the three great professors, Drs. Miller, Alexander, and Hodge.

New York, Oct. 8th, 1878. N.

KNOX COLLEGE STUDENTS' MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The first meeting of the session was held in Principal Caven's class-room on Wednesday evening, Oct. 9th, the first Vice-President, Mr. D. M. Beattie, B.A., in the chair. After devotional exercises and the reading of the minutes of last meeting, several of the Society's missionaries presented reports of their summer's work, viz.: Mr. S. Carruthers from Cobocenk, Mr. Andrew Henderson from North Hastings, Mr. John Mutch from Maganetawan, Mr. E. A. Macdonald from Nipissing, and Mr. W. H. Ness from Waubaushene. The report from Cobocenk and the places in connection with it shows that field to be advancing rapidly both in numbers (there being an increase of twenty during the summer) and in financial strength. The North Hastings people have finished the church which was begun last summer, and are making endeavors to secure a settled minister. The settlements in the neighborhood of Maganetawan are growing very rapidly. The Presbyterians of the village have built a church during the summer, and it is expected that they will soon pass into the care of an ordained missionary. Nipissing, the youngest of our mission-fields, pro-

mises to be a successful one. A congregation was organized at Commanda, and other places will soon follow. The Waubaushene mission has suffered in the death of its missionary, Mr. J. M. Rodgers, who after spending about two months there last spring was obliged by ill-health to return to his home, where he died a few weeks ago, much to the regret of the many friends he made wherever he went. Mr. W. H. Ness took his place at Waubaushene and remained till the close of the vacation.

After the consideration and adoption of these reports, the members joined in singing the missionary hymn, "From Greenland's Icy Mountains," and prayer was offered up by Mr. Urquhart.

A report was read from the General Committee recommending a number of missionary papers and magazines to be placed in the reading room. Carried.

Mr. James Farquharson, B.A., the treasurer, read an abstract of his report, showing that the receipts from the mission-fields of the Society for the past year had been \$748.42, and the receipts from other sources \$721.48, making a total of receipts from all sources of \$1469.90—an increase of \$67.81 over the sum received last year.

A letter was read from Brockton asking that that mission be taken up during the winter. It was agreed to undertake the missions at Brockton and Davenport and also to give assistance to the work carried on in the jail and Central Prison. An application for supply was received from McRae's Settlement, in the Presbytery of Barrie, and Mr. David Findlay, B.A., was appointed to visit the place and to communicate with those interested.

The election of officers for the session resulted as follows:—President, Donald Tait, B.A.; 1st Vice-President, D. M. Beattie, B.A.; 2nd Vice-President, Jas. Farquharson, B.A.; Corresponding Secretary, S. H. Fastman, B.A.; Recording Secretary, Andrew B. Baird, B.A.; Treasurer, A. Dobson; Committee, Duncan McColl, B.A., J. Campbell Tibb, M.A., David Findlay, B.A., John Mutch, Malcolm McGregor, B.A.

The meeting closed with the benediction by the President. ANDREW B. BAIRD, *Re.-Sec.*

"FIFTY YEARS' MINISTRY."

The Rev. Henry Wilkes, D.D., Professor of Theology in the Congregational College, on October 13th celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the preaching of his first sermon by delivering an address to the members of Zion Church, Montreal, founded on the following text: "But I will remember the years of the right hand of the Most High." Ps. lxxvii. 10.

After a brief introduction, the reverend doctor said. This text is made the motto of reminiscences of a ministry of fifty years' duration. My ministry began with the first sermon delivered to a congregation of my fellow-men, by one who had relinquished commercial pursuits, and had consecrated the remainder of his life to the Christian ministry. Having spent six years in this city in connection with the house of the late John Torrance, first as a clerk, and having reached twenty-two years of age, as a partner for the last year, I left Montreal for Glasgow in the midsummer of 1828, that I might join myself to the University of that city, and to the Theological Academy of the Independents, conducted by the late Rev. Ralph Wardlaw, D.D., and Greville Ewing. In October of the same year I preached at Govan, then a village two miles from Glasgow, a sermon on the text "Therefore if any be in Christ he is a new creature, old things have passed away, behold all things have become new." 2 Cor. v. 17. It may appear to some strange that one in such a position should be urged to preach. But it so happened that I had already enjoyed good advantages of education, and withal of no little practice of public speaking in the Sunday school work of the American Presbyterian Church of this city, of which I had been a member upwards of two years. My memoranda show this preaching ministry was more continuous than I should be disposed to permit to one of my students of the present day. Shortly after I preached at Kilmarnock, Larkhall, Cambuslang, Hamilton, Helensburgh, Greenock, Alloa, Ayr and Dunfermline. The midsummer of 1829 was spent in Ireland, in company with an Irish deacon of one of your churches in Scotland, and I preached at Belfast, then at Londonderry, and then in hamlets, or in the open field—around the last mentioned city. It was a most encouraging service. It would be of little interest to you were I further to recount the details of

this form of ministerial work during the years 18 and 1831, the summers of both of which years we spent in England and that of the last of them in effort for the good of Canada. The result of those efforts were the obtaining the service of the late Rev. Richard Miles, who formed this Church and was its first pastor and also the nucleus of acquiring your present College Library. In 1832, prior to leaving Glasgow for the port in the good brig "Favorite," Captain James Allan, I was solemnly set apart and ordained to the ministry with appropriate services in Dr. Wardlaw Church, West George street. The Sundays of a voyage of five weeks were cheered and improved by divine service on the deck, there being upwards of one hundred souls on board. Captain Allan always operated most heartily. One of my hearers on those Sundays, then a young immigrant, told me not two months ago that he had seldom seen me since, but that he remembered well the services on board the "Favorite." After a short stay in this city, the mission I had undertaken called me westward, and kept me busily employed during the summer, lecturing, preaching, and holding public meetings. Meanwhile that dire disease, the cholera, swept away nearly one tenth the inhabitants of this city. On my return of friends were missed, while sadness and sorrow dwelt among survivors. Many years afterwards I was informed by a Christian minister that one of those discourses by the way had greatly awakened him as a youth, and led him to seek and find a Saviour. Arrangements were made for my entrance during the following summer on a stated ministry at York, now Toronto, where, instead of at Montreal, there was every probability that my life work would be carried on. Had it been so, how different a narrative of experience and effort would have resulted! Much to my own disappointment at the time, the scheme fell through, and I became convinced that we must have systematic British help in order to succeed in the introduction to Canada of Congregational churches and institutions.

At length in April, 1833, this itinerant ministry came to an end, by my settlement in the Albany street Church, Edinburgh. Having thus spoken of a ministry extending from October, 1828, to April, 1833, one naturally inquires of what sort it was. The subject of the first sermon suggests the tone that pervaded them all. Men must be in Christ if they are to be saved—there is salvation in no other; "there is none other name under heaven" whereby or by whom that boon can be obtained. I do not forget that my urgency, often impassioned entreaty, in calling upon the people at once to turn unto the Lord, forsaking their rebellious attitude, brought upon me not unfrequently the rebuke of grave and reverend seniors, whose theological conceptions were rudely assailed by such appeals. Meanwhile, the Lord added His gracious testimony by giving me seals to my ministry of the time and place. I am reminded of one especially having far-reaching issues. A shrewd, intelligent man was walking aimlessly in the street about ten o'clock on Sunday morning, in a town some twelve miles from Glasgow. He was in much spiritual distress of soul, and knew not which way to turn. Being accosted by a friend he was asked to attend service in the Independent chapel, where a young man from America was to officiate that day. He complied, and the day's instruction was the means of his relief; he found rest in the Saviour, and in due time joined himself to the Church, bringing with him of course his young family. That was the family in which the renowned David Livingstone, the African missionary and explorer, was then a boy, for his father was the man who on that Sunday received the blessing. I did not learn these facts until more than twenty-five years afterwards. In looking back to those early years I have only further to say that I carried with me across the Atlantic a determined opposition to all prevailing use of intoxicants; took occasion to write in the Greenock newspaper on the subject of abstinence from what was admitted to be lawful, but which was not expedient, and throughout those five years the general benevolent objects had such advocacy as I was able to give them. We are not to forget that our Divine Master went about doing good. He lived for it.

On the next period of three years as pastor in Edinburgh, Scotland, I must not dwell. I found in fellowship 140 members and left the number 240. My Bible class contained two men who have since spent their active life as missionaries in China, and are now, in old age, retired from active service. Two others, one