

THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, WINNIPEG.

MR. EDITOR,—I would like to call the attention of the readers of THE PRESBYTERIAN, and especially of our ministers, to the Y. M. C. A. of Winnipeg. I know of no institution doing a more practical and valuable work. There is not a city in the world where the need for such an organization is greater. Thousands are landing in the city from all parts of the country, and from other countries some of them intending to remain, others only passing through on their way west, others again spending a few days or weeks in it, in the course of business or pleasure. A very large proportion of these are young men, for the time being without a permanent home or settled employment, and, of course, strangers to one another. Anyone can readily see the need for an institution of this kind, and understand how valuable a service it may render under the circumstances. It is a fine thing for one, after a long, fatiguing journey, finding himself among strange scenes, unknown faces, and the almost feverishly bewildering rush of business, to know where he can go, with the assurance that he will be welcomed as an *expected* guest in a pleasant, comfortable room, in which he can rest, collect his thoughts, write letters, and think over his plans.

My chief object in writing is to suggest to ministers and others that they cannot give a better piece of information to any one going to Winnipeg than to tell him of these rooms. I could not conceive of anyone better fitted for the position than the secretary, Mr. C. M. Copeland. His deep interest in the work, his sympathy with young men, his Christian character and experience, together with his bright, genial manner and accurate knowledge of the country, fit him in a peculiar manner for the position he occupies. A similar statement might be made with regard to other of the officers; indeed, the institution altogether is under the most excellent management. Those visiting the rooms in Mackay's Block, Main street, will find the reading-room well furnished with papers from all parts of the country, with the leading magazines, and in other respects arranged with every attention to comfort and attractiveness. One very important service rendered by the Association is the opportunity it affords for the formation and cultivation of safe and elevating friendships. To one being a stranger it is a matter of importance to be able to meet society *at an advantage*—to know whom he meets, and to have some reliable means of putting himself into a good relation to the community at once. In this alone the Association is doing a work of very great value. Young men whose earnestness might soon be dissipated in the intensity and temptation incident to a life so new and strange, are led to associate with others of earnest life, and to form friendships which become strong bonds of safety; and in the interesting and excellent prayer meetings and Bible classes no unimportant help is given to the development of Christian character. Perhaps one of the best things is that the Association seeks to bring young men into the closest relations with the various Churches, its officers being earnest and prominent members of these Churches themselves.

I only add, that if in the growth of the city it should be found necessary for the Association to erect a building, I know of no work in regard to which the liberality of Christians could be more wisely exercised.
St. Catharines, April 13th, 1882. G. BRUCE.

MARCHMOUNT HOME.

MR. EDITOR,—You will greatly oblige me, and I am sure a number of your readers, by allowing me some little space to tell about the Marchmount Home in this city. The lady who superintends the Home is Miss Bilborough, who has been connected with it from its foundation, and for a long period of years. You have doubtless heard of Mr. Quarrier's work in Glasgow, Scotland. It is a faith work, and has for its object the adoption and training of children, who otherwise would be mere waifs. For such children, left to themselves, there is no other prospect than to be utterly lost in the condition of chronic poverty and crime in which they are born, or into which they fall through neglect or misfortune. Mr. Quarrier's object is to rescue all such from the moral pestilence, and then educate and train them in Homes which are specially adapted to this end. The children in the Homes are divided into two classes, not arbitrarily,

but according to their history and their special qualifications. The one is made up of those who are deemed most suitable for situations at home; the other consists of such as are suited for farm life in Canada, and these are sent to Marchmount Home, in Belleville, as the distributing centre. In training these latter, special care is taken to impress upon them that they are to go to Canada to farm, for the reason that otherwise they would come here without any purpose, and would run away with any new-fangled notion that would present itself on their arrival. To show the determination of the boys to become farmers, let me narrate an amusing incident. Last spring a farmer friend asked me to select a boy for him from amongst the immigrants to our Home. I was at once captivated with a bright-looking lad, and when I selected him, and asked him to follow me into the parlour to arrange as to the journey to his new home, I was surprised at his sudden demureness and unwillingness to accompany me. It was explained by Miss B., who overheard him saying he was not going to be a minister. The boy thought I was capturing him for the Church, whereas he had come out to be a farmer.

When the boys and girls arrive here, they are ready for adoption. They may be adopted either entirely or for a limited period. The preference is for the latter in the case of the older children. In the latter instance it is then open to those assuming their charge to arrange for the payment of a yearly sum, and then at the age of twenty-one, in the case of boys, they are free to go without further consideration. Or in addition to the support of the child there may be no further allowance until maturity, when a specified amount is to be given to secure a start in life. It is, of course, desirable that the youngest children be adopted out and out, and we need not enlarge upon the benefit to them resulting from being admitted into the genial atmosphere of a Christian home. On the other hand, how many a childless home might be brightened by the presence of "one of the least of these," taken in the name of Christ into its loving embrace.

By the time this letter can appear in your columns, the first arrival of the season, per "Waldensian," may be expected. This will consist of seventy boys, varying in age from six to thirteen years. The second party will leave Glasgow in the end of May, and will consist of girls and little children for adoption.

All applications should be accompanied by minister's reference. I should mention that the children are well trained in the Scotch Homes, and are supplied with an outfit suitable to our climate, and the work in which they are likely to be employed.

I write this in the hope that some who are looking out for such help, or are thinking of adopting children, may be led to the Marchmount Home for this end. The boy I selected for my friend has given entire satisfaction, and I know of many cases that have proved equally gratifying. Let me say, in conclusion, that it will give me pleasure to answer directly questions addressed to me, or in any way to aid those who may be on the look-out for such boys and girls, or who may desire to adopt children. DAVID MITCHELL.

Belleville, 27th March, 1882.

CHURCH SOIREES.

MR. EDITOR,—The communication in your issue of March 17th, signed "One in Earnest," is on a topic that merits further notice. There is an editorial on Soirees in the March number of the "Canada Christian Monthly" for 1874, by your esteemed friend the Rev. James Cameron, which well merits perusal. I can only give some extracts. They are as follows:—

"On a purely commercial calculation there is no speculation we know of (save perhaps railway shares) so utterly unremunerative, when we count time and trouble of begging and buying and borrowing, of cooking and printing and speaking, as a Church soiree. But supposing money was made, to be counted in pounds where we actually count it in cents, it is money got at a ruinous price. It is money got at the price of departing from apostolic precept and example. It is money got at the expense of *drying up the springs of Christian liberality.*"

"There is no farmer but knows that it is bad policy to train a cow to let down her milk only as she is kept eating. But this is the very principle in which we train the churches of Canada when we, trusting to a false method of selling so much entertainment for so much money, neglect the true method of appealing to the higher principles of the Christian's nature. 'Ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be made rich.'"

"It is getting money at the expense of dulling the weapon of our warfare. It is getting money at the expense of

lowering the Church's testimony before the world. Did the Spirit of God visit us in Canada as it is visiting other lands—did the thought of a perishing world lie heavy on the Church's heart—did belief in the shortness of the time for working dawn upon our hearts, and the nearness of the Master's coming, then would the question that sent the prophet back to his work, 'What doest thou here?' drive us from the miserable business of Church theatricals, to our true field and our true weapons—prayer and the ministry of the word."

These extracts speak for themselves, and it is in the hope of drawing further attention to this subject that I thus write. Resorting to the ways of the world to uphold and adorn the Church is like one painting the cabin while the ship is in danger of sinking. We have need to pray that Reformed Churches may be reformed more and more, and it is only as we hold by the scriptural standard of things that our Church will be an extensive blessing to this and to other lands.
Egmondville, March 18th, 1882. W. G.

WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY—WESTERN SECTION.

The sixth annual meeting of this Society was held in Peterborough on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 11th and 12th inst. The proceedings throughout were deeply interesting, on account of the large number of members from different parts of the country present, and also because of the amount of varied information bearing on the interests of the work which was brought before them. Visitors were also present from similar societies in the United States and Canada, and the generous hospitality of the ladies of Peterborough, shown in their admirable arrangements for the entertainment of the guests, was beyond all praise.

The ladies met three times during the two days. There was also a meeting of the Committee of Management, and on Tuesday evening a large social gathering was held in St. Paul's Church, the Convener of the Assembly's Foreign Mission Committee presiding, and addresses were delivered by Rev. D. J. Macdonnell and local clergymen.

The reports of the Society and of its branches were submitted on Tuesday, and on the same day the officers and Committee of Management were elected. The Committee consists of thirty-six ladies, representing the different interests concerned. The following is the list of officers: President, Mrs. Ewart; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. McLaren, Mrs. W. Reid, Mrs. Macdonnell, Mrs. John McLachlan, and the presidents of all the auxiliary societies; Recording Secretary, Mrs. MacMurchy; Home Secretary, Miss Topp; Foreign Secretary, Mrs. Harvie; Treasurer, Mrs. King.

From the reports of the Society we gather the following particulars: Life members (each paying \$25 at once), 12; ordinary members (each paying \$1 yearly), 668; total number of members, including members of auxiliaries as far as reported, 1,690; number of Presbyterian societies, 3—Hamilton, Whitby, and Peterborough—the first has six Auxiliaries and six Mission Bands, the second ten Auxiliaries and one Mission Band, the third three Auxiliaries. Number of Auxiliaries, 57; largest number of members in any Auxiliary, 126; smallest number, 12. Contributed by Auxiliaries, \$3,792.37. Number of Mission Bands, 12. Contributed by Mission Bands, \$944.45; special donations, \$562.90; total amount contributed during the year, \$5,732.54.

OBITUARY.

Mr. John McCuaig, elder in the Woodville congregation for over thirty-two years, died in peace at his late residence on the 11th inst., aged seventy-four years.

He was distinguished for piety and prudence; a man of sound judgment, mildness and firmness combined. In all his dealings he was thoroughly upright. His consistency secured the confidence, while his amiable disposition won the love of the people.

As a ruling elder he was faithful, judicious and patient. He was conservative in his principles and practice, but by no means bigoted in holding old things because they were old. He held them because they were scriptural, rational and right. His views of divine truth were distinct, definite and deep; and he evidently lived under the influence of the creed which he professed.

The love and attachment of the people were manifested in various ways, especially during his long and painful illness, and at his funeral, which was attended by an immense throng.

"Help, Lord, for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men."