

A VISIT TO POINTE-AUX-TREMBLES.

FOR many years we had been hearing of the Pointe-aux-Trembles schools, nine miles east of Montreal, but the wish to see them was never gratified until the closing exercises in the last week of April. Perhaps it might not be in good taste to say "The half had not been told," but we can honestly say that we were agreeably disappointed, and can, more intelligently, while not less heartily than before, commend these schools to the liberality of our readers. The admirable order when all were gathered, during more than three hours steady questioning we have never seen excelled. Rev. Mr. Bourgeois, who has been principal for about twenty years, controls self so completely that all around seems without effort to fall quietly into line. Not less surprising was their knowledge of Scripture and of the truths of salvation, while their ready answering in other departments of study showed good progress. During the session just closed the whole number of pupils in attendance was 104 boys and 84 girls, a total of 188. Of these 97, or more than half, were Roman Catholics on entering the school. But presence here means giving up mass for the time being, attendance at the public worship regularly conducted in the large class room, and receiving the religious instruction which occupies so large a place in the course of study. And when young people voluntarily do this, and their parents permit them to do it, and in many cases pay as they are able for the privilege, it means that their minds are opening to thought. During their school term many are savingly brought to Christ. In the last session twenty pupils made a public profession of their faith. What an influence this school must exert as its young people return to their homes in all parts of the country—an influence like that of the sun in spring time, reaching everywhere, melting down prejudice, opening the way for the seed sowing and for abundant harvests in years to come.

SCHREIBER.

OUR mission at Schreiber is one of great interest. It is large enough for a Presbytery or a Synod. It only lacks people. Those who live within its bounds are superior (as is becoming, near Lake Superior); but the numbers are small. The writer is bishop over a parish extending from Port Arthur to White River, 245 miles, and from Lake Superior to the North Pole. This includes 19 C. P. R. stations, besides a number of gravel pits and quarries. The C. P. R. Company very kindly give a free pass over their fields of labor to all missionaries.

Schreiber is our headquarters. It is an important divisional point 428 miles east of Port Arthur. Of all the C. P. R. with the exception

perhaps of some parts of the Rocky Mountains, the two divisions on the north shore of Lake Superior were the most difficult of construction. For 200 miles the road consists almost wholly of curved rock cuttings and trestles. (A straight piece of road is rare.) The trestles are being rapidly filled up with stone and gravel. Three hundred extra workmen arrived about a week ago; and it is hoped that in two or three more summers but few bridges will be left. On account of the nature of the road Schreiber has large shops, besides the round house and sheds for resting live stock in transit.

The town is situated on a level dry plateau. The surrounding hills, instead of protecting us from the winds, seem to gather them from the four quarters of the earth and pour them down as through a funnel. *Perhaps* the purpose is to drive away the black flies that in summer infest these regions. The air is certainly kept pure. The dry and bracing atmosphere, always cool at night, combines with the well drained ground to make a healthful locality. It is over a mile to the lake shore.

Schreiber may justly be proud of its Institute. It is a becoming monument to the energy and devotion of the Rev. Wm. Neilly, who though dead yet speaks to us. His memory will long remain green, his name fragrant along this rocky shore. He had just witnessed the completion of the Mechanic's Institute for which he labored so zealously and of which he was the founder. It is a large two-story building. The second floor is intended for lodge rooms. The first floor affords a library, bath-rooms, a barber shop and a public hall. The library, thanks to the C. P. R. is a good one, and as a reading room contains some of the very best periodicals of the day. A gymnasium is likely soon to find shelter beneath the protecting wing of the "Institute."

A R. C. chapel and three Protestant churches protest against sin. The Episcopalian, Methodist and Presbyterian ministers live within gunshot of each other. (They endeavor to use their guns on the *enemy*.) The Episcopal and Presbyterian churches are separated only by the street, and this is unseen on Sabbath, for one week all go to the Episcopal, the next all come to ours. Their pastors take Sabbath about to preach "along the line." The greatest harmony exists to their mutual edification.

We have now a weekly Sabbath School which promises well. The "Ladies Aid Society" are working with commendable zeal, and their concert and bazaar last Thursday proved a most encouraging success. Again the question arises, suggestive of thanksgiving, what would the world do without the ladies? What would the church do?

A. W. LEWIS.

SCHREIBER, May 12th, 1892.