

## OUR CONTRIBUTORS.

### MANITOBA AND THE NORTH-WEST.

MR. EDITOR,—I have just returned from a tour through the country west of Brandon, and wish to lay a few facts before the ministers and members of our Church. The railway is built for over 250 miles west of Brandon. For 12 miles on each side of the track the land is all taken up. Owing to the scarcity of timber at certain points, and the inability of the C. P. R. to haul lumber, in consequence of the demands of the construction force on the line, many will not be able to build this season, and hence must winter in our cities and towns. A large number, however, will remain on their farms all winter, and should be provided with Gospel ordinances. As in the settlements in the eastern part of the Fertile Belt, the members and adherents of our own Church outnumber those of any other denomination. The people are anxious to have missionaries sent them, and offer to contribute for their support according to their ability.

At Oak Lake, Mr. Hardie, a student of Knox College, is journeying this summer with much acceptance. In a month he returns to college. There are over sixty families in his field. Are they to be neglected all winter? At Virden, one of the stations in this group, steps were taken when I was there to erect a church. Will not some young, active man offer his services for a promising field of this kind? Forty five miles west of Virden is Moosemin. The whole of the land between this and Fort Ellice (twenty-five miles to the N. E.) is taken up, and a good deal of "breaking" has been done. To the south is Moose Mountain, where there is a large settlement. For this district I secured the services of Mr. Nichol, who was engaged for several years in mission work in Manchester, England. Forty miles west of Moosemin is Broadview, which must be a town of some importance since it is selected by the C. P. R. as the terminus of one of the "Divisions" on the line. There is also a good country around it. To the south-west lie the Weed Hills. There the land is fertile, and is largely owned by Presbyterians. About thirty or thirty-five miles west of Broadview is the Wolf Creek Settlement, also largely Presbyterian. There should be a missionary settled at once at Broadview, and he could overtake, for the winter, the whole of the surrounding country, including settlements named. In a year or two there will be two or three important fields here. Is any young, energetic man ready to volunteer for this district? Between Broadview and South Qu'Appelle is a distance of about sixty miles. For over twenty miles to the north of South Qu'Appelle the land is all taken up, and I was informed that between sixty and seventy settlers would remain there all winter. The number at present on their claims is much larger. At Fort Qu'Appelle there is quite a number of families, and from that neighbourhood I received a petition, signed by thirty-eight heads of families, or young men on their claims, asking to have a missionary appointed to minister to their spiritual wants. To the north of the Qu'Appelle River, within twenty or twenty-five miles of the Fort, I was told that there were several hundred families wholly uncared for religiously. I was obliged to promise the Qu'Appelle people a minister. Who will help me to redeem the pledge? Four or five missionaries will be required for this northern district next summer. Regina is about fifty miles beyond South Qu'Appelle. There are very few settlers there yet; but since it is chosen as the capital of the new Province, I suppose that tradesmen and others will soon begin to lay the foundations of the new city. Our Methodist friends are already on the ground. Shall we leave the place unoccupied till an indefinite time in the future? In a few days Moose Jaw Creek, fifty miles farther west, will have been crossed by the rails. All speak in the highest terms of the fertility of the land in that neighbourhood. A large number of settlers went there in the spring. I intend to visit them later; but what about a missionary?

Beside these places, we require missionaries at the end of this month for Grand Valley, Milford, Souris, Dominion City, Cypress River, and some other points. Much good work was done in these fields this summer. These fields will contribute on an average about \$500 for the support of ordinances. Shall we leave them for the winter unoccupied, and let others reap, where

we have sown this summer? Our work is expanding beyond all expectation. Men and means are required to overtake it. The work of our Church just now is pre-eminently Home Mission work. Let our people give liberally to carry it on, and let our young men volunteer for this pioneering work. For the good done God is to be praised, but much land yet remains to be tilled. More later. JAMES ROBERTSON.

Brandon, Sept. 3rd, 1882.

### PRESBYTERIAN PARAGRAPHS.

Perhaps at no time in the history of our Church in this country has there been so many important vacancies as there are at present: one in Halifax, three in St. John, N. B., two in Montreal, and one in the capital; and whilst some would seem to be tedious in being filled up, others are quickly settled, as in the case of

#### ELGIN AND ATHELSTANE,

in the Montreal Presbytery.

This reverend Court met on the 26th August for the purpose of inducting the Rev. Samuel Houston, M.A., of Bathurst, N. B., over the united congregations of Elgin and Athelstane. The services were held in the church at Elgin, which is a substantial stone building, but of primitive type in its internal arrangements. The Rev. W. Johnstone presided, and the sermon was preached by the Rev. J. B. Muir, M.A., who based his remarks on the words, "Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out." Mr. Johnstone then put the usual questions to the minister-elect, and led in the induction prayer; at the close of which he declared Mr. Houston the pastor of the united charge. The Rev. J. Watson, M.A., in words suitable, impressive, and weighty, gave some counsel to the minister; after which the Rev. J. A. F. McBain, who for years was a co-Presbyter of Mr. Houston in New Brunswick, but who has been recently settled in this Presbytery, addressed the people in equally suitable terms. At the close of the services the people extended a hearty welcome to their new pastor, and gave further but more substantial evidence of their good wishes by handing him a quarter's stipend in advance. The people are unanimous, the settlement seems a happy one, and everything promises a successful parsonate.

#### BATHURST, N. B.

The church here is vacant in consequence of the removal of the Rev. Mr. Houston to Elgin and Athelstane, as stated above. Before leaving, Mr. Houston was made the recipient of a pocket-book containing \$82, and an address expressing sorrow at his removal, and bearing testimony to the fidelity and zeal with which he laboured among them. The address was read by Professor Harris, of Kingston, who has a summer residence at this place. The ladies composing the sewing circle gave Mrs. Houston a purse containing \$30, to both of which Mr. Houston replied in feeling terms. He stated that he never expected to have truer friends than he had at Bathurst; and that he and his family would ever cherish a fond recollection of their friends in that town.

#### HALIFAX, N. S.

On my arrival here, I noticed by the city papers that there was an intellectual treat in store for the citizens, as the Rev. Dr. McCosh, President of Princeton College, was advertised to preach in Fort Massey Church.

It is over twenty years since I heard Dr. McCosh in Belfast, and it may still be said of him that "his eye is not yet dim, nor his natural force abated." In early life President McCosh held a charge in Scotland, when he was appointed to the important chair of Metaphysics in Queen's College, Belfast, where he soon gained a high reputation not only as a professor, but as an author, many of his students occupying high positions at present both in Church and State. The late lamented Rev. Dr. Robb, of Toronto, who was well known throughout Canada, was a student under Dr. McCosh. The sermon in Fort Massey Church was an exposition of Christ's interview with the Canaanitish woman. The large audience present on the occasion will not soon forget either the preacher or the masterly exposition of Gospel truth to which they listened so attentively.

The valuable services of Dr. McCosh on the occasion were greatly enhanced by the willingness which he showed to supply the place of the pastor, Dr. Burns, who had been suddenly summoned to Toronto to attend the funeral of the late Mrs. Burns.

St. Matthew's Church is closed for repairs, and the pastor, Rev. Robt. Laing, is leaving for a month's holidays in the Upper Provinces. The communion was observed yesterday in St. John's Church, of which Rev. H. H. McPherson is pastor.

St. Andrew's Church is vacant, in consequence of the removal of Rev. Mr. Duncan to Scotland.

Halifax, 4th Sept, 1882.

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### DR. COCHRANE'S MISSION TO BRITISH COLUMBIA.

MR. EDITOR,—I am here for a day to meet with the Rev. Dr. Lindsley, of the Presbyterian Church, who has been long and intimately acquainted with the Pacific coast, and with missionary enterprise both on British and American territory. My work in British Columbia finished, I deemed it of importance to take Portland on my way to the east, to gain any information Dr. Lindsley could give me in matters of importance that must soon come before our Home Mission Committee.

As I have said in a brief note sent to the "Record," I cannot at present go into details as to what I hope has been accomplished by my visit to this distant Province. That some one should go, and report as to the state of Presbyterianism in the Province, seemed to the Home Mission Committee and the General Assembly a necessity. The wisdom of the course adopted cannot be questioned, although I should greatly have preferred the appointment of another, in a matter demanding no small amount of wisdom, forbearance, tact and prudence.

I have been kindly received by the ministers and churches, and had large audiences wherever I preached, spoke, or lectured. If our Church is ever to become here what she is in the other provinces, the staff of missionaries must be speedily and very largely increased, and a much greater revenue will be needed by the Home Mission Committee. There is every prospect, when the Pacific Railway is completed, that emigration will be directed to this part of the Dominion. The climate and resources of the country only need to be known to bring a large number of settlers, and among these, as in Manitoba, there will be a goodly number of Presbyterians.

Victoria is exceedingly attractive in its situation and surroundings. The many beautiful drives around the bay and Beacon Hill, the fresh sea breezes that blow over it, and the mildness of the temperature, not to speak of the hospitality of the people, will make it, independent of all other considerations, a summer resort for the people of Oregon and California—increasing as it is better known. The local Government seem to me sadly remiss in making little or no effort to make the country, as a whole, better known to the world. Not a single map of the country is to be found in a book store, nor even at the office of the Premier, so that settlers or tourists have little or no means of gaining information, or arranging their journeys. It is very different with our friends on the other side, who spare no expense to advertise and attract emigrants to their rapidly growing towns and cities.

An election contest has just been concluded, in which there has, as with us, been a good deal of party spirit manifested. But it is difficult for a stranger to understand the politics of the Province, if it really has any in the strict sense of the word. There are no leading questions before the people. It seems simply a desire for office—that the "ins" may remain where they are, and the "outs" be kept where they are. The approaching visit to the Province of the Governor-General and the Princess Louise is evoking a large measure of enthusiastic loyalty, and their coming will be greeted by becoming demonstrations, joined in by all classes and creeds, not excepting the Indians and the Chinese, who form a large factor in the social life of British Columbia. Yours very truly,

Wm. COCHRANE.

Portland, Oregon, U. S., August 25th, 1882.

### ASSEMBLY'S MINUTES.

MR. EDITOR,—The minutes of last Assembly have just arrived. The printing and quality of the paper is all that could be desired. There are, however, improvements that might be made, in the way of condensing, that are highly necessary and important. First, in the statistical and financial reports, there are thirty-nine spaces for answers to as many questions. Very often a line containing these spaces