

Our Contributors.

NOTES BY THE WAY—VANCOUVER CITY.

BY KNOXONIAN.

Vancouver City is a marvel—I almost said a miracle. Five years ago there were a few houses in the woods on the south shore of Burrard Inlet, but in July of 1886 they were all burned but one. That one solitary house was the Vancouver of five years ago. Now there is a busy, bustling, thriving city, with a population of 13,685, with imports for 1890 to the value of \$697,600, and exports for the same period of \$483,885. Solid brick blocks that compare quite favourably with the average business blocks of any eastern city line the principal streets; elegant dwelling houses adorn the hill at the west end, and, taken altogether, this youthful city of the west is as well built as if half a century had been taken to put it together. Indeed it looks much better than most old cities, for everything about it is clean, new and bright. All the modern improvements are here. Street cars propelled by electricity whirl you along the streets up and down the hills and round the corners quite as fast as any prudent man wants to go. Water is brought across the Inlet from the mountains on the other side, and I was told the pressure is so great that the pipes are constantly in danger. Possibly Vancouver might be defended against an invading army or fleet by simply turning the hose on the enemy. The city is lighted with gas and electricity, and seems to know how to take care of itself municipally much better than some older communities.

Looking at this youthful city from the deck of a steamer or the top of the C. P. R. hotel, or any other point from which, as the Presbytery Clerks say, you get "a conjunct view of the whole," you wonder at several things. The first thing is how they cleared up so much land in five years and took the stumps out of it. The first citizen you asked explains that mystery in a moment. They blew the trees, or at least the stumps, out with dynamite. Then you wonder how so much building could possibly be done in five years. One explanation is that they build all the year round. There is no winter on this coast. Brick can be laid and plaster put on any month in the year. There is no such thing as hurrying up before winter sets in. There is no winter to set it. There is a rainy season that serves as a mild substitute for our eastern winter, but the rain does not stop building operations. I was told several times that the rain here does not even prevent people from going to church and prayer-meeting. That is the kind of rain we should try to get in the East. The third thing a tourist wonders at is where all these people came from in such a short time. Perhaps the right reply is that they came from everywhere. Many came from Ontario. Some from Montreal and a goodly number from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. I should say, however, that Ontario has the largest representation. The business of the city seems to be largely in the hands of Ontario men, though one cannot make sure about these things in a hurried visit.

Perhaps the greatest puzzle of all for a citizen of Ontario is to find out the factors that produced this city in five years. In the East we are in the habit of thinking that unless a town or city is buttressed by a large and fertile agricultural district it cannot prosper. Here is a city that has grown up in a few years without a farming country to support it. The fact that it exists shows conclusively that there must be some reason for its existence. The fact that it prospers proves that it must have within it some of the elements of prosperity. Nine men out of every ten will tell you "the C. P. R. did it." No doubt the C. P. R. did much and is doing much in the way of making the city, but the location and the enterprise and pluck of the people must have vigorously seconded the efforts of the great railway. Whether Vancouver will yet become the great shipping port of our Pacific coast is a question on which I dare not offer an opinion, but certainly things seem to point a little that way. The Canadian Pacific steamships meet the railway at this point. I saw a vessel from Melbourne, Australia, loading with lumber there, and another from San Francisco taking on a million feet of the same product. A third vessel was discharging a cargo of raw sugar at the refinery, and here and there in the harbour were ships from different parts of the world. Of course Victoria, only seventy miles off, with her accumulated capital, is a dangerous rival, and may be expected to make a splendid struggle for the commercial supremacy of our Pacific coast. The future alone can tell which is to be the chief city and to the future and the business men the solution of the problem must be left.

There is no better test of the business enterprise of a community than the advertising columns of the local press. Judged by this test Vancouver stands high. The advertisements in the local papers would produce a watery sensation in the mouths of some eastern publishers. And here is just as good a place as any to say that the local press seems to be generously supported all along this coast. I question very much if local journals are as well supported in any three places in the Dominion as in Vancouver, New Westminster and Victoria. Business men seem to understand here that advertising pays and they advertise accordingly. I suppose a newspaper man has his difficulties here as well as in any other place, but certainly he cannot complain about lack of advertising patronage.

Speaking from experience I should say that Vancouver is

a kindly hospitable city. The Ontario people there seem specially glad to meet anybody "from home." Those I met appeared to be well satisfied with their surroundings and prospects, but they have still a warm place in their hearts for their dear old homes in the East.

In another letter I may have something to say about Victoria and New Westminster.

WORLD'S Y. M. C. A. CONFERENCE.

(Special Correspondence to THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.)

The Twelfth International Conference of Delegates from the Young Men's Christian Associations throughout the world has come to a close, and I hasten to jot down in a second letter a few particulars for THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN readers.

That much good has already been accomplished the delegates present and those specially interested in the cause in Amsterdam are willing to testify. And further good will follow. The brethren from Sweden, in whose capital city the last Conference was held, came to Amsterdam and reported last week that the International Conference held in Stockholm in August, 1888, exercised a very marked influence on Sweden for strengthening and enlarging the work of the Association. The public became aware of the fact that these associations not only form an institution for the edification of converted young men, but a powerful agency for moral rescue and prevention, based upon principles wide enough to influence the communities at large. The general interest they testified furthermore was not of a passing nature. It has proved solid and durable. That Eleventh Stockholm Conference not only brought Young Men's Christian Association work before the public in a manner in which it has never before been brought out, but it served to make the Association of that land realize the blessing of being a link in the great chain that compasses the whole world, uniting them in loyal service to Christ. It helped to widen views and taught workers to join hands for united service.

The programme carried out in Amsterdam should do for the Netherlands as much as the Conference at Stockholm did for Scandinavia, and while the home districts were being benefited, the lands from which far-off delegates came will be preparing for benefits too as the printed page, the newspaper account, and the testimony by word of mouth from returned delegates report the proceedings.

The devotional and communion parts of the Conference were inspiring. The subjects brought forward for consideration were timely and practical. These subjects were five in number. On one of the days the Conference dealt with the topic, "The Bible in our Associations; and different methods of Bible Study." Another day called for attention to the subject, "The Association secretaries; their work, their position, and the best means of forming able consecrated young men to fill this important position." "The Young Men's Christian Association and its attitude with regard to the social question" was a third topic. An important session was devoted to the consideration of "The Young Men's Christian Association in Roman Catholic countries, and how to counteract the difficulties which prevent their development."

Perhaps the most important session of the Conference was that during which the delegates dealt with "Spiritual life in our Associations; the dangers that threaten it in our actual development; the best means for maintaining and increasing it, and for constantly recruiting active and truly converted members." In some of the countries the representatives to the Conference were able to report large additions to the wealth and building possessions of the Association, and to tell of numerical accessions to the associations formed, as well as to the members added. Such was the case in Britain and North America especially. But, as Lord Kinnaird very properly put it in entering upon the consideration of the fifth topic above mentioned, it was right for the friends of the cause to ask if they were not being satisfied with buildings, and numbers, and possessions to too great a degree—to enquire if proportionate energy were being put forward for the soul welfare of young men as for physical improvement—and to reflect upon the mass of mental and material machinery in operation, and ask if it were being directed to the main purposes for which the Young Men's Christian Association exists. As the session proceedings went on it was clear from the papers presented, as well as from the words uttered in consideration of the papers, that the delegates were keeping the glory of God in a conspicuous place in plan and endeavour, and that in the prosecution of Young Men's Christian Association work in the different countries it was remembered that "It is not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit saith the Lord of Hosts."

In the field to the west of the Atlantic the greatest material prosperity is found. And it was in the paper from the delegate who was speaking in the name of the Associations in that field that these words were found: In all our activity it is most essential that the spiritual work should be most emphasized, whether quietly or more prominently; and that there should be seasons of special prayer for fruit of our labours as well as for facilities. Our constant aim should be to bring our members and our boards of directors into close contact with the spiritual work, that at all times there may be watchfulness and prayer and liberal appropriation in its behalf. With all our material resources we need to cultivate a sense of humility and dependence on God, remembering that He has said: "Not by might nor by power, but by My

Spirit." Above all, we desire to hold up before all young men the one perfect model of manhood, the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us seek in meetings, classes, sociables and gymnasiums to conform more and more to His image. Let us not be high-minded; let us not "trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us all things richly to enjoy."

The Conference that has just been closed in Holland has had social features that will cause it to live long in the memories of those who enjoyed them. Dutch hospitality was at its best in the entertainment of its many guests from all lands. Some other nationalities have a reputation for manifesting kindness of disposition in a more demonstrative way than the people of Holland. But although the hospitality of the Association's host and hostesses was less showy than that experienced on at least one former Conference occasion, it was doubtless none the less sincere. It took no small number of basketfuls to feed the hungry hundreds who assembled for "table d'hôte" in the large hall adjoining the Conference chambers each day at five p.m. Yet that was, as far as the delegates were concerned, a gratuitous provision. The visitors to Amsterdam were billeted in homes and hotels that did for them to the utmost of their ability. Then above and beyond these things, the committee of arrangements, supported by kind friends in the city, went to no little expense in engaging special trains and other conveyances for the excursion pleasures of one whole day during the time covered by the Conference proceedings. No matter where, in Holland, the visitor to the country for the first time goes, he finds things fresh and new and often strange. Holland is a country that demands respect as well as admiration. The picturesqueness of this land is different from that of any other land on the face of the earth, but at the same time it is a picturesqueness possessing special charms. Outside of Holland there are not to be found any of a multitude of things that cause the visitor to the country, in saying farewell, to rejoice that he has seen them and been among them.

But it is a good thing to have the guidance of the initiated for a day's outing from Amsterdam, and the competent committee of the Associations in Amsterdam merited the heartfelt thanks of every delegate for the sights and pleasures of the trip to Nymegen and Neerboosch last Friday. These two spots are situated within a quarter of an hour's run by express from the western boundary of Germany. They belong to a district that is known as the only hilly part of Holland. The ancient history of Nymegen especially is full of interest. And the modern record of Neerboosch for philanthropy is read by thousands on the continent who have a special interest in the orphanages there. These orphanages were inspected by the delegates. In the chapel attached a religious service was held, at which the head of the institution addressed the visitors in Dutch and an interpreter made known in English and in other tongues the whole words that he spoke. The excursionists returned from Neerboosch to Nymegen in time to do full justice, being escorted by competent guides, to the internal and external features of the place. In the cathedral at Nymegen a special service was held, and every moment was occupied until the whistle of the engine from the special train announced that the day was far spent and that the hour had come for preparing to return to Amsterdam.

The closing day of the Conference was observed by forenoon, afternoon and evening meeting. The address of George Williams, the founder of the Association, at the closing service, was deeply impressive. A few chosen men known for their service in the Lord's cause delivered appropriate parting words. On retiring from the hall in which happy and profitable hours had been spent, the delegates were encouraged to look forward to the next triennial Conference which, at a time and place to be named by the International Central Executive at Geneva, shall celebrate in a fitting manner the jubilee of the Young Men's Christian Association movement. S.

A REMINISCENCE OF BROUGHTON PLACE CHURCH, EDINBURGH.

BY REV. D. MILLAR, TORONTO.

After a sojourn in Canada of nearly nine years, looking backwards, I recall my very pleasureable connection with Broughton Place, United Presbyterian Church, Edinburgh. Neither while sitting under the ministrations of others nor in my own experience of ministerial work have I since enjoyed so blessed spiritual satisfaction.

Broughton Place Church may be regarded as wealthy, yet the comparatively poor in her communion are not by any means shaded by the rich; for there the moral and spiritual qualities of all are duly prized, and as far as possible employed in the Master's service. Broughton Place is pre-eminently a working congregation, and may this not be, to a large extent, the secret of her pulpit power, presently manifested in Rev. Andrew Thomson, D.D., and Rev. John Smith, M.A., his eloquent and most efficient assistant, as attested in the case of the latter by his very able and learned sermon, recently delivered in St. James Square Church, Toronto, and published in your issue of 12th August.

An historical sketch of this congregation, though it would be exceedingly interesting and instructive, I do not at present contemplate; but, as an old member and humble worker, permit me to record a few personal recollections.

The Church of which Rev. Dr. Thomson and Rev. John Smith are conjoint pastors crosses the end of Broughton Place, a short and retired street, adjacent to, and running parallel with, Leith Walk, a very busy thoroughfare stretching from Edinburgh to Leith. The population in this vicinity is dense, but the members and adherents of Broughton Place Church are by no means drawn from the surrounding district. They come from all parts of the city and suburban