

Our Contributors.

THE CLERGY AND THEIR HOLIDAYS.

BY KNOXIAN.

Professor A. has gone to Europe. He will be absent until September. The Professor has been suffering from insomnia. Doctor B. is summering at Long Branch. He is suffering from nervous dyspepsia. Doctor C. passed through the city last week on his way to the White Mountains. He has hay fever. Doctor D. has gone to the Green Mountains. He has catarrh. Doctor E. is at Saratoga. He is suffering from nervous depression. Doctor F. is at the sea-side. He has malaria. Doctor G. is resting his weary brains at Portland. Doctor H. has gone to Northern Michigan for rest and recreation. He has clerical sore throat and is suffering from over work.

The foregoing are fair specimens of paragraphs that we see in our American exchanges every summer. They begin to appear early in June, and the religious journals are fairly studded with them until September. Then appear paragraphs announcing that the Doctors are returning from sea-side and mountain-side and lake-side and resuming their work.

Well what about it? Supposing religious papers do contain such paragraphs, what harm do they do anybody? Just this harm. They lead even fairly good people to think that ministers are an effeminate, ease-loving, self-seeking class of men. Why parade the ailments of clergymen more than the ailments of any other class of men? Why announce that a minister's brains are weary, or his liver torpid, or his nerves shaky, or his throat sore? The precise condition of Spurgeon's toes is a matter of public interest because everything about Spurgeon—gout included—is of public interest. The world wanted to know all about Gladstone's vocal cords when the British elections were coming on, because the world knew that the elections would be largely influenced by the condition of these vocal cords. But does it follow that because people take an interest in Spurgeon's gout they take an interest in every other minister's ailments? Gladstone's throat is a matter of world-wide interest, but there is only one Gladstone. Tell people where and how he takes his holidays, and you make a nice little paragraph. The fact that Spurgeon has gone to Mentone is worth announcing because people want to hear about the great preacher's movements. But why in the name of common sense should the ailments and recreations of every minister be paraded before the world?

Two considerations prompt newspaper men to publish a string of such paragraphs. These are journalistic enterprise, and a desire to pay a personal compliment to each of the persons named. Well now there is no great enterprise displayed in stringing together the names of a number of ministers who have gone off on vacation. It is positively no compliment to any minister to place his name before the public in a connection that will suggest his possible softness. We repeat that this annual fuss over holidays and resting places leads even fairly sensible people to think that ministers are a lazy, soft, effeminate class of men who give themselves more concern about their holidays than about their working days. This is not true of more than one minister in a hundred. More's the pity then that such a cruelly wrong impression should be left on people's minds.

Of course every honest working minister should have an annual holiday. He works seven days in the week while other men work only six. His life is a constant violation of one of nature's fundamental laws. God intended His creatures to work six days and rest one. A horse worked seven days in a week soon breaks down. But of course it cannot be expected that many of our people will attach as much importance to the welfare of a mere preacher as they do the welfare of the horse they work every day. A good farm horse is worth about \$100. If he breaks down, \$100 are gone. If a minister breaks down, or dies, it is easy to get another.

But though every minister should have his holiday no wise minister will make a fuss over his vacation. Everlasting talk about "good places to go to," "good hotels," "good watering places," and "good board," does not increase the respect that thinking people have for a minister's manliness. Brother, take your vacation—if you can get one—but take it like a man. As a rule the best way is to allow the office-bearers of

the congregation to introduce the subject. If they are generous, sensible men they will nearly always arrange the matter. If they are not generous, sensible men, the less said about holidays to them the better. Parading one's ailments will do no good. It wouldn't move or enlarge the hearts of some men if their minister's corpse were paraded before them every day.

FRAGMENTARY NOTES.

RICHMOND AND MELBOURNE—WINDSOR MILLS—QUEBEC—HALIFAX.

Cities are bustling and full of life and activity. Everything is set out to best advantage, and always looks its best, whilst in the country matters are different. There we see quiet, plodding and persevering effort, and results at the same time are not less successful. Even in matters ecclesiastical, country folks are willing to concede sometimes that things are better done in towns and cities than in rural places. Well, I am not so sure about this. I think the old adage still holds good, that if a minister goes to the city, he should put on his best coat; but if he goes to the country, he should bring his best sermon.

As a general rule, people in the country are better read up in the doctrines and polity of our Church, and have more leisure to study the deeper and more abstruse questions relating to Church life and work; and it cannot fail to be noticed that a very large percentage of our best and most eloquent ministers and professors have been born, baptized and trained in rural districts. At the present time a large drain is being made upon country ministers, in order to fill city pulpits, all of which goes to prove that the work done in rural charges is thorough, and to the Church and world, has brought forth its "hundred-fold."

RICHMOND, P. Q.,

is a lovely neighbourhood and stretches for nearly a mile along the beautiful River St. Francis. It is an important junction on the G. T. R., and continual bustle and excitement are kept up by the arrival and departure of trains.

There is about an equal number of English and French in the town, the influence of the former, however, for the present predominating. Presbyterianism has taken a firm hold here, and is determined to stay. It has been well established during the nine years' pastorate of the Rev. F. M. Dewey, now of Montreal.

Some important changes have been made, owing to the removal of the Rev. Mr. Sims to the west. The Melbourne charge has been left vacant, but it has lately been united with Richmond. Since the union of the two congregations, which geographically are divided by the placid waters of the St. Francis River—which is not sufficient to quench their love and affection for the good cause they have mutually at heart—they have given a hearty and unanimous call to the Rev. John McLeod, a graduate of Queen's University, who has been settled under the most favourable circumstances.

Mr. McLeod is a native of Prince Edward Island, and for a short time was the temporary supply of an important charge in the New England States. The young pastor of Richmond and Melbourne is rich in buildings. On one side of the river he has a church where he preaches twice and conducts a Sunday school; on the other side, he has a church and fine brick manse, occupying a beautiful site overlooking the river.

Having accepted the churches, the idea of taking possession of the manse without some one to look after it whilst he had "the care of the churches" was too much for him, and consequently he now finds himself not only in possession of a newly furnished manse, but associated with one who will in every respect be an help meet for him. Mrs. McLeod is an accomplished lady, and has had the benefit of a good Presbyterian Christian training, and will be a decided strength to the cause in Melbourne and Richmond.

In the near future, some well disposed person might whisper to the good people of the place the convenience of all worshipping together, so that the efforts of the pastor could be concentrated. They have taken a very wise step, but their work is not yet done.

MELBOURNE

is separated from Richmond by the St. Francis River, here spanned by a handsome bridge, whose noiseless gates are swung to and fro by a venerable man whose

kindly face is always lit up with a smile, when receiving the bawbees from the passengers.

Melbourne has four churches and several industries, among them a chair factory, slate quarries and copper mines in the neighbourhood. The village is divided into two, known as Upper and Lower Melbourne, and, as is usual in all great adjoining cities, there is considerable rivalry. Melbourne has a sidewalk, and probably the worst that ever graced the streets of town or village. It is serpentine in style, and the pedestrian is all the time struggling to keep his balance; no sooner does he step off one bad plank than he steps on another much worse. Life may be safe in Melbourne, but I doubt very much if limbs are.

WINDSOR MILLS

is a good town on the G. T. R. and pleasantly situated on the River St. Francis; it has several churches, saw mills, a large paper mill and a powder factory. The quiet monotony of the place is relieved by the noise of the unrivalled water power, the rumble of machinery and the ceaseless roll of the noble river which flows below.

The congregation here was formerly connected with Melbourne, but is now a separate charge, and has for its pastor the Rev. J. D. Ferguson, formerly of Kennebec Road, P. Q. who although only about a year settled, has given full proof of his ministry.

Mr. Ferguson is a native of Quebec, a graduate of Morrin College, and reflects credit on his Alma Mater. It is of the utmost importance that the colleges and schools in the Province of Quebec be maintained in a high state of efficiency, as the men trained there are best adapted for mission work in that Province. They understand the difficulties, and are better able to grapple with them than men trained and educated in purely English-speaking places.

QUEBEC.

The Local Legislature was in session here, and all eyes were turned toward the settlement of the Crucifix Bill. Protestant feeling was aroused to a high pitch of excitement, and there is no doubt the withdrawal of the bill was owing to the bold and decided stand taken in relation thereto.

The venerable senior pastor of St. Andrew's Church, Rev. Dr. Cooke, is still hale and hearty, and is at present engaged in editing a volume of sermons which will shortly appear, and will no doubt be a fitting memorial of one who is one of the honoured pioneer preachers of Canada.

POINT LEVIS

is on the other side of the St. Lawrence, and although largely settled by a foreign element, still Presbyterianism, through the persevering labours of the Rev. Duncan Anderson, has a name and a place in this French Settlement. After a laborious and faithful pastorate, Mr. Anderson has retired from the active duties of the ministry, and the congregation, realizing that they should not have a protracted vacancy, at once agreed to call the Rev. Mr. Tanner, of Scarborough, Ontario. Mr. Tanner is a strong man, well adapted for a French-speaking community. He converses and speaks fluently in both languages, and will undoubtedly be a strength to Presbyterianism in the Province of Quebec.

HALIFAX.

"All things come to those who wait." Halifax is booming. It has obtained a fine street-car service, a coffer dam and a new college all within a short time.

Dalhousie has been made rich by the benefactions of Sir William Young. The new college is expected to be ready for opening in September, and will be an ornament to the portion of the city where it is located, and a lasting memorial of the energy of Rev. Principal Forrest, D.D., who, since his appointment to the office he now holds, has taken an unceasing interest in the welfare of the institution.

The building will be 200 feet long by about sixty-five wide, and its estimated cost is about \$70,000. There will be sixteen class rooms, two libraries and two reading rooms, gymnasium and museum.

The material used is pressed brick, with stone trimmings. The building is to be heated with hot water. It is large enough to accommodate all the students from the Maritime Provinces, and will be opened free of debt.

THE LADIES' COLLEGE

is expected to be opened this fall. A good building and a beautiful site on Pleasant Street have been se-