

## OUR CONTRIBUTORS.

## HOME MISSION NOTES.

BY THE EDITOR, DR. COCHRANE.

## COLLINGWOOD, PARRY SOUND, AND ROSSEAU.

As promised many friends in the Parry Sound and Muskoka region, I have just completed a hurried tour among our mission stations in that vicinity, and briefly sketch a few notes regarding our work and prospects. I left Toronto on Monday, the 29th, reaching

## COLLINGWOOD

the same evening. Mr. Rodgers—who is always on the outlook for some brother to speak a word to his people—had called a meeting, and there we made a beginning by a short address on *Christian Work*. The good people of Collingwood need to be stirred up to the work of church extension and church building at home as well as abroad. They are sadly in want of a new church, and cannot too soon set about its erection. The present edifice is not only destitute of all beauty, but is altogether inadequate to meet the increasing population of the town. The credit of our cause demands that we should at least keep pace with other denominations, and have room for Presbyterian families who are in danger of going elsewhere. From what I know of the Collingwood congregation, the money consideration cannot be a hindrance, and it only needs united and energetic action to erect a church in keeping with the size and strength of the congregation, and a credit to the Church at large.

Mr. Rodgers, as is well known to every member of the Home Mission Committee, is deeply interested in our work in that district, and has laid us under great obligations by his services, in overlooking destitute fields and having them supplied with ordinances.

From Collingwood we passed on to

## PARRY SOUND.

Parry Sound is one of the most promising and important of our mission fields in this district. A year ago the new church was opened, and a goodly congregation has been gathered. There are several staunch active Presbyterians in the congregation, who have recently come from churches in the older portions of Ontario, and who are ready with their means to support ordinances and co-operate with any minister that may be settled over them. During the last few months Parry Sound has been supplied by Mr. Leslie, a recent graduate of Knox College, and lately licensed by the Owen Sound Presbytery. His services have been most acceptable to all, and under his care the congregation has become consolidated, and greatly increased in numbers. Mr. Leslie in addition to preaching twice in Parry Sound, gives supply on Sabbath afternoons at two points, six and nine miles distant. This makes the labour heavy, and cannot indeed be continued for any great length of time. Mr. Bain of the Montreal College has a station at McKellar, sixteen miles from Parry Sound, and three other preaching places, so that during the summer months at least our cause is well represented in the neighbourhood.

Mr. Leslie is afraid to undertake the work at Parry Sound during the winter, on account of the severe strain upon his system. I have hope, however, that he may see his way to remain at least until April next. The unanimous desire of the people is that he should remain, and in this I am sure the Presbytery of Barrie and the Home Mission Committee are of one mind. This is just one of the points that *must be held* at whatever cost, unless as a Church, we are prepared to give up the work to other denominations, who are not slow to avail themselves of our remissness.

Parry Sound depends for its business upon the great lumbering interest. There are three mills here going night and day—the Parry Sound Lumber Company (in which Mr. Dodge of New York is a partner), the Guelph Company, and Mr. Beattie's. Of necessity these mills employ a large number of hands, and bring together a mixed population, who stand in need of regular preaching. The Methodists have erected a most handsome church, and send their best men from year to year to supply it and the adjacent stations. In winter, when our men return to college, they are on the spot, and in this way secure many who prefer Presbyterianism. Praise rather than censure belongs to them for their diligence in the constant oversight of

such fields, which our church should imitate. Whether the scheme for the continuous supply of mission stations will do anything to meet such cases is yet to be tried. We hope for the best, but without men and means,—men of the right stamp who are not afraid to suffer and deny themselves, that the cause may advance and a generous support on the part of our people, no scheme however perfect can be worked satisfactorily.

I preached at Parry Sound on Wednesday evening to a large congregation. In fact we had two congregations, one that filled the church, and another sitting outside on the rocks. The night was oppressively warm, and I am not sure but the rocky hearers had the best of it for once. The singing was hearty, and the services impressive. We left on the following morning, to be succeeded on Sabbath by Dr. Robb of Toronto, who preaches the anniversary sermons. As the great Methodist camp meeting follows next week, we cannot imagine a better preparation for it than an eloquent and earnest exposition of Calvinistic Presbyterianism by our good brother of Cooke's Church, Toronto.

From Parry Sound we went to

## ROSSEAU,

on our way to Bracebridge. The road twenty-two miles—is not the best in Ontario, although certainly much improved since last we rode over it. Before long, it will however, be in capital order; and greatly increase the traffic between the two points. We encountered on our way, (what is doubtless no singular experience with our missionaries,) a tremendous thunder storm; and as there was no possible shelter, had to bear it as best we could.

At Rosseau we met our student missionary, Mr. Dobson, of Knox College, who has won golden opinions from all with whom he has come in contact. He preaches once every Sabbath at Rosseau, and in the afternoon at two other stations alternately. The new Presbyterian Church here is finished, but is as yet without seats. Will not a few of our wealthy members, who make the Muskoka region their summer resort, see to having this remedied? Two hundred dollars is all that is needed to seat and complete the internal details of the building. The Home Mission Committee, as well as the Missionary Society of Knox College, are under great obligations to Mr. Reid, the leading merchant of the place, for his liberality towards the Church, and his generous treatment of our missionaries. For several years he has boarded them free, and made them comfortable in every respect.

But, Mr. Editor, I must close for the present, reserving what I have to say about Bracebridge and other points for another letter.

## NOTES FROM CENTRAL INDIA. II.

BY THE REV. J. M. DOUGLAS, IND-ORE.

[The first instalment of these Notes will be found by looking back to our issue of March 15th. This second portion has just come to hand, and we lose no time in placing it before our readers.]

## THE NATIVE STATES.

The Native States of India cover an area of nearly 600,000 square miles. They have a population of about 55,000,000, and their united military forces are estimated at more than 300,000 men. The gross revenue of their native chieftains amounts to £16,000,000 stg., and by them an annual tribute of £725,000 is paid to the British Government. These states vary greatly in size and importance. Hyderabad, for instance, is as large as the kingdom of Italy, and the Nizam enjoys a revenue of £1,650,000. On the other hand, in Katiwar (the state in which the Irish Presbyterian missionaries have been so successful) and elsewhere, where family custom has led to minute sub-division, there are many chiefs of a single village, and between these two extremes are states of every grade. Great and small there are about 800 native states, but of that number only 200 are of much importance. They may be classed under twelve heads:

1. The Indo-Chinese group of States, and the numerous hill tribes of the north-east frontier.
2. The aboriginal Gond and Kol tribes in Chota, Nagpoor, Orissa, the Central Provinces, and the Jaipoor Agency.
3. The Himalayan Hill States west of Nepal (including Cashmere).
4. The numerous Afghan and Belooch tribes of the north-west frontier, inhabiting the mountains from the

north of Peshawar to the base of the Suleiman range, a distance of 800 miles.

5. The Sikh States, in the Sirhind Plain, south of the Sutlej.

6. The three Mohammedan States of Khairpoor in Scinde, Bhawalpoor to the north-east of it, and Rampoor, from which Warren Hastings expelled the Rohillas in 1774.

7. The ancient sovereignties of Rajpootana, lying to the south of the Punjab, and between Said and the North-West Provinces.

8. The States of Central India, lying to the north of the Nerbuddha, and to the south and east of Rajpootana.

9. Gujarat and the numerous petty chiefships of Kutch and Katiwar.

10. The Southern Mahratta States.

11. Hyderabad.

12. The Malayalam States of Travancore and Cochin lying together in the far south.

During the minority of the Nizam, Hyderabad is governed by a regency, with Sir Salar Jung at its head. Cashmere was granted to Gholab Sing, the father of the present Maharajah, Runbir Sing, by Lord Hardinge, after the first Punjab war. The State is well governed, and it commands some of the most important trade routes to Central Asia. Of the Sikh States, the most important is Patiala. Rajpootana measures some 460 miles from north to south, and 530 in breadth; it has a population of about eight and a-half millions. The largest of the principalities is Marwar, but the most important are Oudipoor and Jaipoor. The Maharajah of the former receives in salute nineteen guns, and the latter seventeen guns. The Rajpoot dynasties are of very ancient date. The Maharajah of Marwar claims descent from the god Rama. They offered the most obstinate resistance to the Mohammedan invaders, and were finally conquered by Sultan Baber, at the great battle of Sikri, near Agra, in 1527.

The United Presbyterian Church of Scotland has long had a most successful mission in these States, with its centre of operation at Jeypore and Ajmeer. The military forces of these Rajpoot States are set down at 70,000 men.

## THE CENTRAL INDIA STATES.

In writing about these States, we feel assured that our Church and numerous friends in Canada will take a deep interest. It is to them that our attention and effort as a Church has in the providence of God been called. Here He has committed a great and interesting field to us for moral and spiritual cultivation. Up to the present His guiding hand has been so apparent in opening up the way for us that our souls are full of strength and encouragement. The Native States of Central India occupy an extent one third less than Rajpootana, and they are split up into nearly four times as many divisions. Large and small there are seventy-one States. The great rulers in Malwa are aliens to the people in blood and language. Scinda, Holkar, Dhar, Dewas, are Mahrattas, while the Begum of Bhopaul and the Nawab of Jowra are Trans-Indus Mohammedans. Among the fifty less prominent States, Rajpoots, Brahmmins, a Goojur, an Ahir, a Kayeth and a Jogi are found amongst the rulers. They cover an area of 83,600 square miles, and have a population of 670,000 souls now in dark and cruel superstition. The two most important States are Gwalior and Indore. The former is ruled by Maharajah Sindia and the latter by Maharajah Holkar. Between them they own the half of the whole area, and are honored by permission of Imperial Government with a personal salute of twenty-one guns.

## MISSIONARY NEWS—CENTRAL INDIA.

The following interesting letter from Miss Fairweather has been handed to us for publication:

MY DEAR MRS. HARVIE,—As I have given myself a holiday to-day, for home letters, I shall include you in my list. I am here among the hills and can do comparatively little work, yet I try never to let a whole day pass without doing something either among the natives or soldiers. Some days opportunities will occur of doing a good deal; at other times, scarcely anything. It might be amusing for you to read my journal of a day, so I will give you one. On Thursday last I arose, bathed, and had my "little breakfast" by 30 o'clock. By 9, I set out for Lanowli, a mountain village about three miles from here. The way is delightful. Here it winds along the verge of steep precipices, there you get a view down a dark, rocky gorge,