

## OUR CONTRIBUTORS.

### NOTES FROM GEORGETOWN.

Georgetown is a prosperous village in the county of Halton where there are stations of the Grand Trunk Railway and Hamilton & North Western Railways. Halton county has become somewhat famous of late owing to the passing of the Scott Act some twenty-one months ago, which was a victory for the Temperance party as against the liquor sellers and their supporters. It is an old and important county, having been settled by the U. E. Loyalists in 1783. The settlement of Georgetown took place about the year 1820, and its incorporation as a village in 1865. It is the largest and most important town in the county although Milton is the county town. Georgetown is beautifully situated, being surrounded by sloping hills and deep ravines which add much to the beauty of the place.

The private residences and stores are comfortable and handsome, and the smiling waters of the Credit river, which runs through the village, impart additional charms to the locality.

There are several manufactories of note in Georgetown, among them may be mentioned Barbers' Mills, established in 1837, to which large additions are being made at present. There is a factory for the manufacture of knitting machines, which I understand is the only one in Canada; besides flourishing hosiery and woollen mills a short distance from the village, giving employment to a large number of hands. There is also an agency of the Bank of Hamilton under the management of Mr. Watson who is well spoken of by the citizens.

The press is well represented by the "Herald," a brisk, live paper, edited and owned by Mr. Neelands, who as a journalist deserves to take a high place.

#### THE SCOTT ACT

was carried here about twenty-one months ago and continues to be the burning question, and you are asked as you leave the county "how is the Scott Act?" As a matter of course hotel keepers are dissatisfied, and the travelling public are not quite so well accommodated. I think it cannot be questioned that the Scott Act has done good and lessened the quantity of drink consumed, but to say that it has put down drinking would be saying too much. It is said that the "Antis" are organizing for a fresh campaign when the three years have expired, but the Temperance party are determined to "hold the fort." It is well known that one of the difficulties resulting upon the carrying of this Act is the want of accommodation for travellers, as in a great many cases hotel-keepers refuse to give meals or lodging, but the friends of the Temperance cause have acted in a spirited and conciliatory manner. It is said that they offered to buy out one of the hotels and run it as a Temperance house, but the proprietor declined and would not sell. Then one of the merchants erected a large shed for the use of the public.

There are the usual number of churches that are found in places of a similar size. Some of them are very handsome, particularly the Congregational church, which has a very imposing appearance.

#### PRESBYTERIANISM.

No doubt to the many readers of THE PRESBYTERIAN anything connected with our own Church, its work and machinery, is more interesting than anything else, specially in rural districts, for the larger and more prominent churches are generally to the front. There are in the rural districts many well equipped and well manned churches of which the outside world seldom hears anything except it may be about dedication and opening services, or when a Presbytery is asked to untie the knot which binds some popular and deserving minister and people, then the usual resolutions are passed sufficiently flattering to bring the blush to a modest cheek.

The history of Georgetown congregation though short is interesting. It was formerly joined to Norval; but, about the year 1860, as the result of a sermon preached by the Rev. (now Principal) MacVicar, of Montreal, the members resolved to form themselves into a separate and distinct charge; pulpit supplies being obtained from Knox College. The late Rev. Dr. Burns gave a whole summer of his valuable time to the infant congregation. He was followed by Principal Willis, who also rendered valuable assistance.

The services of these distinguished fathers of the

Church are still fresh in the memories of the older members of the congregation. The Rev. John Burton, B.D., now of the Northern Congregational Church, Toronto, supplied two summers. In 1865 a call was given to the Rev. R. Ewing who organized the congregation, connecting it with Limehouse, and in 1868 the present church edifice was erected. Mr. Ewing demitted his charge in 1876, and after a vacancy of two and a half years a call was given to Rev. Mr. Pringle, who remained four years and resigned in response to a call from Kildonan, Manitoba. The present pastor is the Rev. W. G. Wallace, M.A., who after a successful career at Toronto University and Knox College was ordained to this charge about six months ago, and is successfully carrying on the work which was laid aside by his predecessors.

The congregation is in a flourishing state, the membership having increased by forty-five during the past six months. The Sabbath schools are in active operation, and a Young People's Literary Society has been started with the pastor as president and a full staff of officers who are taking much interest in its welfare.

An appeal lately made on behalf of Knox College met with a liberal response about \$1,000 having been subscribed. Anniversary services are arranged to be held this month. They are looked forward to with much interest; the pulpit will be occupied by one of the leading ministers of our Church.

Mr. Wallace has thrown himself into the work with a heartiness deserving of all praise, and judging from the manner in which his labours are spoken of by all parties in the neighbourhood it is evident his services are appreciated.

K.

Georgetown, 30th Nov., 1883.

### SHOULD WE HAVE A PRESBYTERIAN PUBLISHING HOUSE?

MR. EDITOR,—In my last I pointed out that denominational Publishing Houses in Canada, in the United States, and in England has been remarkably successful, from a financial point of view; and if their financial success affords any criterion of their usefulness they must have been remarkably useful. Their utility and success in connection with other denominations affords a *prima facie* reason why we should seriously consider the propriety of establishing such an institution in connection with the Presbyterian Church in Canada. But I can imagine some of my readers saying to themselves:—The printing and publishing houses originating in private enterprise are surely sufficiently numerous to supply all that we want in the way of literature, and therefore the proposed Presbyterian Publishing House is unnecessary. No doubt there are many private houses that dispense literature to the people of various kinds, and it is a comparatively easy thing for any one who knows how to get a book published in America or Europe. But, notwithstanding these admitted facts, let us ask a few questions pertinent to our subject. Amongst the thousands of families belonging to our Church throughout the country, into how many will you go without finding any literature worthy of the name except some trashy productions hawked about the country by miserable book agents? Have Presbyterians in Canada the means within reach of easily knowing about the best Presbyterian literature in existence and obtaining possession of it? Does the thousandth part of the best general literature which is produced find an entrance in the houses of even the comfortable and comparatively intelligent classes of our people? Any one who knows the facts can answer these questions and the answer will point to some imperfection in the present means of bringing good, healthy literature into our Canadian families. In the congregations of our Church, how many congregational libraries are there to be found? Statistics do not reveal; but we fear there are very few indeed. The most widely-spread congregational literature is that of the Sabbath school, which is certainly not of the highest order and is unfit for the food of minds beyond sixteen years of age. Amongst our numerous and yearly growing congregations there must be multitudes of young men and young women, and also mature men and women who would take delight and obtain great advantage from reading books of a much higher order than the Sabbath school library or the village stationer's shop can supply, but who have not facilities presented to them of easily obtaining such books. Notwithstanding the great success of the cheap standard book enterprise of the neighbouring Republic, there is a vast amount

of good work to be done in this direction which, I humbly think, no private enterprise can accomplish.

Let us look at the matter again from the point of view of the production of literature. What proportion of the literature supplied to our Canadian congregations is produced by Canadians? Probably the largest proportion of the periodical literature supplied to our Sabbath schools is of foreign origin; and practically the whole of our Sabbath school libraries is the work of foreign authors and publishers. The same is true of the numerous Sabbath school Helps which our teachers use. It may be said of course that we can get better books and periodicals from abroad than at home, and therefore should get them. Very true; but surely it would be wise to make home production possible. I do not think so little of my country as to suppose that better books can be produced in the United States and Britain than here, that is if we had equal facilities for producing them. But in the meantime the facilities are not by any means equal, and will not be so for many a long year to come. And is it not of importance that there should be provided facilities for home production in literature? Many of the clergy of our Church are capable of producing thoughts which might profitably be communicated to a much larger sphere than that of their own congregations. But as things now are it is practically impossible for a Canadian author to publish in Canada any extensive productions of his pen. It would be well if we could alter this condition of things. It is a laudable object of ambition to create a Canadian literature which will be helpful to the edification of future generations of Canadian men and women. To further this end it is needful that facilities and encouragements should be given to the publication of Canadian books and that machinery should be set agoing, having for its object the distribution of such books amongst the homes of the people. This need would be supplied, as far as Canadian Presbyterians are concerned, by the establishment of the proposed publishing house. Properly and efficiently worked such an institution should command the support of a very large and yearly growing constituency, and form a medium of intellectual communication between the best thinkers and writers of our Church and the multitudes of people who form its membership. The different branches of work to be taken up by this institution will form the subject of my next letter.

ROBERT JARDINE.

Brockville, Nov., 1883.

### STOP THAT LEAKAGE.

MR. EDITOR—While it is gratifying to know that, according to the last census, the Presbyterian Church in Canada is the largest Protestant Church in the Dominion, it is, nevertheless, a matter of regret that we have not progressed during the past ten years as rapidly as we should have done. We have not increased in the same proportion as the population, while the Methodists have increased ten per cent. more than the population. Why is this? Is it because the Presbyterian Church has been less active than the Methodist? We cannot think so. Our ministry and our membership are as active as those of any denomination. Christian life and vigour are realities in our Church, and not things of the past. It is no vain boast to say that no church in the Dominion is putting forth greater efforts for the extension of the kingdom of Christ than the Presbyterian Church. Missionary in spirit, universal in its aims, it has overleaped the narrow boundaries of province and country, and taking the world for her field of labour is carrying the Gospel of Jesus into more heathen lands than any other branch of the Church. That the same spirit of earnestness, zeal and activity characterize her efforts in the Home field is very evident. Prof. Shaw in an address before the Methodist Conference in Montreal in 1882, said: "Methodism is here, and now among a living Episcopacy and an especially active Presbyterianism." Again we ask why it is that with all our zeal and earnestness and activity, our Church does not increase more rapidly, and keep pace at least with the increase of the population? Very many reasons might be given. I believe one reason is "that leakage," to which Mr. Hastie refers. It is a well-known fact that every year our Church loses very many members and adherents by its long continued vacancies. Unless "that leakage" is stopped we will continue to suffer. I have no hesitation in saying that our present system of supplying and settling vacancies is all wrong. It is not scriptural. It is