

soon wiped out. It has been resolved to erect a new and commodious Court House, a central site having been selected, which will afford excellent scope for good architectural effects, and there is every reason to believe that in due time municipal buildings worthy of the city will be erected. The City Council presided over by the first mayor, William Lyon Mackenzie, were content with humbler surroundings than would be acceptable to the civic magnates of today.

When the city was in its infancy, steam power was looked on by many as a marvellous thing. It had indeed been applied to navigation, but many of its present uses were then undreamt of. Toronto has always been enterprising in the matter of newspapers, but Francis Hicks and the editor of the *Colonial Advocate* were content with the primitive printing presses then in use. From the printing office sacked by the mob in 1826 to the handsome and well equipped edifices of the leading Toronto journals of the present, the progress has been astounding. The old modes of locomotion, afforded the only means of land conveyance to the citizens of fifty years ago, and intermittent mail service, at costly rates between important points, and occasional posts to remote places, were the only methods by which correspondence could be maintained. Now a net-work of railways afford easy facilities to the inhabitants of the Dominion, and a postal service of great magnitude has attained a satisfactory degree of regularity and reliability, while for urgent despatch the telegraph is increasingly utilized, and between most important points immediate conversation can be held by telephone.

The wretched ways of muddy Little York have been mended, not too soon, and many miles of cedar-paved streets form the roadways of Toronto. Woe betide the belated wayfarer in the "good old days" who had to grope his way along the dark streets before the inventions of Siemens, Brush, and Edison were thought of; now incandescent carbon takes the place of oil, and throws the brilliancy of gas into the serene and yellow leaf. It is scarcely conceivable that the citizens of Toronto, after an experience of electric lighting will be content with gas-lit streets.

Now that the celebrations are over and the people have had time to reflect on the various scenes that have passed before their gaze during last week, it may be asked if the displays realized the expectations previously formed. It must be admitted that the various committees had no easy task before them, and it is but just to say that the promoters of the celebration have been equal to the occasion. Mr. W. B. McMurich has devoted a great amount of time, energy, and thought to make the affair a success, for which he and all associated with him deserve credit for the results achieved. The opening was auspicious. The procession of the civic dignitaries and municipal officers accompanied by numerous bands of music, and the emblematic representations with which it closed was imposing, and was gratifying to the vast crowds by which it was witnessed. The tasteful decorations of the engines, hose-reels, and waggons of the firemen were particularly admired. The and the policemen showed that the city possesses a fine body of protectors. In the evening the illuminated procession of the firemen delighted a great throng of spectators.

Tuesday was also a great day. The military parade and review, at which a number of regiments from other cities assisted, gave great satisfaction to the numbers who came from all parts to see Canada's Volunteer defenders. It was estimated that about twenty thousand people assembled in Queen's Park to witness the military evolutions which formed the chief features of the day's attractions. Unfortunately many in the vast crowd had no chance of observing the manoeuvres, the ground being too level for those at a distance to see what was taking place. The pyrotechnic display at the Horticultural Gardens in the evening gave great satisfaction to all who beheld it.

On Wednesday the industrial interests were represented. There was considerable variety in the parade. It ranged from fanciful and allegorical representation to the realistic display of the most common-place wares. When the first century of civic existence is completed, if processions survive so long, it may be open to surmise whether there will be any lack of good taste in similar displays. Our good neighbour, the *Christian Guardian*, fell into line with the press on which it was first printed; for obvious reasons the press of to-day was not placed on the same waggon.

Thursday was devoted to the United Empire Loyalists who listened to appropriate and eloquent speeches and choice music in the earlier part of the day, and attended the Lieut Governor's reception in the afternoon. The evenings of Wednesday and Thursday afforded rare enjoyment to those who are fond of good music and the number of such is steadily increasing, thanks to the societies under whose auspices the concerts of Wednesday and Thursday evenings were held. The Choral Society, under the direction of Mr. Edward Fisher, gave a fine rendering of "The Creation," and the Philharmonic, with Professor Torrington for maestro, reproduced Gounod's "Redemption" with fine effect. Both performances were very highly appreciated. What was looked forward to as a great attraction was an aquatic procession on the bay with fireworks and other illumination terminating in a mimic naval fight, but somehow this did not come up to expectation. From unexplained causes the procession tried to form, but never started. The illuminated craft moved about at will over the rippling waters while people on board the flotilla set off a number of fireworks, all bearing a close family resemblance to each other. Later on a vigorous fire of variegated projectiles was opened on the forts improvised for the occasion, which they returned in a spasmodic and erratic fashion. If all battles were as harmless as these on Toronto bay, war would not be the dread reality it is. But there is no use of finding fault. The affair is past, and our criticism will be forgotten before the next semi-centennial celebration.

The rain threw a damper on Friday's parade. The various national and benevolent societies turned out in great force and splendour. Many of them, with praiseworthy perseverance, tried to parade; the hardy Sons of Scotland, to the inspiring strains of the bagpipes, the doughty Sons of Albion, and the Hibernians, in resplendent national decorations; but the rain was too much for them; they had at last to give in. A procession under umbrellas lacks artistic completeness. These orders had a better opportunity on Saturday when they made a fine display.

Not the least interesting was the last of the Semi-Centennial celebrations, when many of the future citizens, now attending the Public School, marched with lightsome hearts in a procession of which, in after years they will have pleasant recollections and many a good story to tell. The first parade on Monday suggested reminiscences of the past; the closing procession of Saturday points to the future. It is full of hope. The greatness of Toronto is assured; in material prosperity it is bound to advance. Not in that direction only, we may be assured. May the moral and spiritual power of the Queen City keep pace with its temporal prosperity!

NEW HEBRIDES MISSION STEAMER.

At the Foreign Mission meeting in connection with the General Assembly, the Rev. H. A. Robertson, of Eromanga, stated that for the more effective prosecution of the work in the New Hebrides a steamer was required. During the evening several contributions were made; the following have since been received:—Mr. Alex. Boyd, Toronto, \$10; Mrs. Jas. Simpson, Toronto, \$5; Miss Stark, Toronto, \$5; Friends in Trenton, \$12; Agincourt congregation, \$9; Rev. J. S. McKay, B. C., \$5; Miss Annie Smith, Pembroke St., Toronto, \$10; Mrs. Hilloch, Toronto, \$10; Mrs. S. H. Blake, \$20; The young ladies of Miss Haight's school, \$10; Miss Annie Laing, Dundas, \$4; Miss Cassells, Toronto, \$1; Rev. Robert Wallace, Toronto, \$3; Mr. L. G. Campbell and Mrs. Esson, Toronto, \$5; Mr. L. S., St. James' Square Presbyterian Church, \$10; Knox Church, Toronto, \$145.40; Rev. Mr. Henry and wife, Creemore, \$5; Mr. McDill, jr., Creemore, \$5; Jos. Mitchell, Dunedin, \$2; Mr. Dickson (Methodist), \$2.

THERE are ingenious agnostics. One who objects to living in the Christian era proposes the introduction of a new calendar. He suggests the "Year of Science," or "*Anno Scientia*." He advocates the change, because, as he says, "without the implied divinity of Christ a Christian date would have no meaning; hence, any man who uses a Christian date does acknowledge the divinity of Christ, whether he says he believes Christ was divine or not." The reason, says the *Philadelphia Presbyterian*, is not a bad one, but the proposition itself is simply a small bit of infidelity.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

THE PULPIT TREASURY. (New York: E. B. Treat.)—The general approval with which this decidedly evangelical publication has been received, must be very gratifying to many in these days of loose theology and sensational sermonizing. The present number, in point of excellence and variety, is in advance of any that has yet appeared. It has been amalgamated with the *Southern Pulpit*, giving it a wider range. A magnificent array of contributors is announced in this issue. The portrait of Dr. Moses D. Hoge, and a view of his church in Richmond, Va., adorn the present number.

RIGHT TO THE POINT. (Boston: D. Lothrop & Co.)—This is a volume of selections from the writings of Theodore L. Cuyler, D.D., made by Mary Storrs Haynes, with an introduction by Rev. Newman Hall, LL.P. Theodore Cuyler is one of the most prolific writers of the day. His pen gets no rest. Few men who write as much as he does could keep up the interest which his writings always evoke. He possesses the rare gift, in addition to a singularly pure and pellucid style, of reaching the hearts of his readers on a great variety of subjects. The selections in this neat little volume, one of the Spare Minute Series, are short, varied, interesting and instructive.

THE HOMILETIC MONTHLY. (New York, Funk & Wagnell's.)—Devoted to Homiletics, Biblical Literature, discussion of living issues and applied Christianity, the *Homiletic Monthly* continues to be a most attractive and useful publication to all engaged in the work of the ministry. The present number is a specially good one. The Homiletic department contains a variety of suggestive outlines by eminent divines, while the other departments are replete with most interesting articles on important and timely topics. The eternity of punishment and evolution are ably discussed. There is besides a large amount of useful information and valuable hints, which ministers will find to be profitable.

FRENCH EVANGELIZATION.

The following circular has just been issued. We trust that in every congregation and mission station the collection will be made on the Sabbath named, and that the contributions will be liberal.

Sabbath the 20th of July is the day appointed by the General Assembly for the annual collection on behalf of the French Evangelization scheme of the Church.

We send you by this mail a copy of the annual report of the Board, as presented to the General Assembly last month.

In addition to ministering to the French Canadian Protestants now connected with our Church and supplying Gospel ordinances to the sparsely settled English-speaking Presbyterians in the Province of Quebec, we are in on every side by Roman Catholics, the Board desire to expand their aggressive work, by planting additional mission schools in districts where there are openings for such, and by largely increasing the number of teachers and colporteurs. Since the meeting of the General Assembly, application has been received from two new districts for the appointment of missionaries.

A careful estimate has been made of the expenditure the current year, showing that the sum of \$35,000 will be required to carry on the work with efficiency, viz.: \$27,500 for the ordinary work, and \$7,500 for the Pointe-aux-Trembles schools. It will be observed that upwards of \$6,000 were received last year from Great Britain and Ireland. As the Board have no agent there at present, largely increased contributions will be necessary from the congregations of the Church and the friends of the mission generally in Canada.

Please bring the claims of the scheme before your congregation on the two Sabbaths preceding the day named for the collection, and urge liberal contributions on its behalf.

Will you kindly present the claims of the Pointe-aux-Trembles schools to the teachers and scholars of your Sabbath school. The Board are most desirous that these mission Institutes should be entirely supported by the young of the Church. With the fullest confidence we commend them to the sympathy and liberality of all Sabbath schools and Bible Classes, believing that no scheme can be presented to them more deserving of countenance and of help. A copy of the report has been addressed, in your care, to the superintendent of your Sabbath school. Please see that he receives it.

Additional copies of the annual report, as well as subscription lists for collectors, may be obtained on application to the secretary.

Soliciting your hearty co-operation in the furtherance of the work and in securing liberal contributions for its prosecution.

Yours faithfully,

D. H. MACVICAR, D.D., LL.D., Chairman.
ROBT. H. WARDEN, Secretary-Treasurer.

Montreal, 30th June, 1884.

P. S.—Students and others in charge of Mission fields, and the elders in vacant congregations, will kindly oblige by seeing that the collection is made at all the stations on the Sabbath named, and the amounts forwarded to the treasurer, addressed: Rev. R. H. Warden, 198 St. James Street, Montreal.