

a new impulse, The Colleges were able to make a more satisfactory showing than in previous years; but what some are disposed to regard as minor Schemes, such as the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, Widows' and Orphans' Fund, etc., have not as yet received the liberal aid to which they are entitled. There have been large additions to the membership of the Church, and in not a few districts increased spiritual activity. It is hoped that the coming year may witness an increase in every good word and work, that spiritual life will be greatly quickened, and that increased resources will bring an added responsibility in relation to the great work for which the Church exists, the advancement of the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

#### A PRESBYTERIAN PILGRIMAGE.

THE rapid and extensive progress of Presbyterianism in Manitoba and the North-West is encouraging and satisfactory. The Church, with praiseworthy provision, promptly took up the mission cause there, and has carried it on with unrelaxing perseverance. The planting of Presbyterianism in the North-West, however, dates back seventy years. It is significant that its origin is not due to the fostering care of either the British or Canadian Churches. In 1811 the Earl of Selkirk, a member of the Hudson's Bay Company, set out on an exploring tour, and so favourably was he impressed with the nature of the country around Fort Garry that he resolved to establish colonies along the Red River. Accordingly, next year a splendid class of settlers, about seventy in number, came from the parish of Kildonan, in Sutherlandshire, Scotland. One of the stipulations they made was that they should be accompanied or speedily followed by a minister of their own faith; so highly did the sterling and upright people value their spiritual well-being, and the simplicity of the service for which the Church of their fathers was distinguished. They went however alone, and for long years after the promise remained unfulfilled. Unlike too many others, they did not sink into a state of apathy or indifference in relation to what they rightly deemed the greatest of blessings, the public ministrations of religious ordinances in their midst. The flame of piety was kept alight by the observance of family worship and stated assemblies for prayer. During the years of their weary waiting, their spiritual wants were ministered to, for a time, by a pious layman, Mr. Sutherland.

The frequent petitions presented to those in authority, after Lord Selkirk's death, showed how strong was their purpose and how unchangeable their desire. How bitter must have been their feeling of disappointment and chagrin, when on one occasion, on receiving supplies, they found some butter wrapped in one of their earnest appeals for a Gospel minister. Once it seemed as if their long-cherished expectation was to be gratified by the appointment of Rev. Donald Sage, of Resolis, one of whose sons was for a time pastor of the congregation of Parkhill, in Ontario. Again they were disappointed; Mr. Sage declined the appointment, but the Selkirk settlers were not the kind of people to be turned from their purpose. Several English Church clergymen conducted services among them, and for these they were not ungrateful. But for people of their mould, even the mild ritual only possible in such a remote settlement had no charm, and one of these excellent men of the Anglican Church wrote thus concerning them:

I have preached to the Presbyterians these many years now. I have done everything in my power, in every possible way to gain them over to the simple and beautiful forms of our Church service, but all in vain. This people brought their religion to this country along with them, and are conscientiously wedded to the rites and discipline of the Presbyterian form of worship, and nothing will make them forsake the Church of their forefathers. Fourteen years' experience convinces me that any further attempt is utterly useless, utterly hopeless, for, not one of them, young or old, up to this hour, will use our prayer book. They are obstinate in the extreme. Yet, as soon as I was made aware that their obstinacy arose from conscientious motives, I did sympathize with them.

After long years of waiting and repeated disappointments, through the energetic efforts of Professor Burns, D.D., father of the Moderator of Assembly, a man eminently qualified for the work was secured in John Black, who, for a period of about thirty years, gave full proof of his ministry. His labours were abundant, untiring and conscientious, and his name is inseparably linked with the planting of Presbyterianism in the North-West, and his memory is revered by a grateful and affectionate people.

The welcome extended by the people of Kildonan to the members of the General Assembly was one of the pleasing episodes of a most enjoyable meeting. The descendants of the Selkirk settlers seem worthy of their heroic and devoted ancestry. The peaceful and prosperous parish, with its good old stone church, surmounted by a neat and proportionate spire, its surrounding churchyard where repose, in the hope of a blessed resurrection, the remains of not a few of those who braved the perils and privations of the wilderness, and where a fine granite monument marks the spot where all that is mortal of John Black; and where, not far off, the remains of a brother beloved, John Nisbet, the first missionary to the Indians of the North-West from the Canadian Church, lie interred.—the whole scene and surroundings remind one strongly of a quiet little bit of Scottish rural life. Certainly as the crowd, with whom mingled several who had crossed half a continent to be present, neared the church where the commemorative service was held, when the bell began to peal from the steeple, the illusion was for the moment complete.

The memorial service as a whole was worthy of the occasion. The devotional services in which Dr. Cochrane led, Professor Hart's introductory remarks, Dr. Burns' most felicitous and stirring address, Professor McLaren's reminiscences of Dr. Black, whose intimate friend in student days and subsequent life he had been, and Dr. Bryce's historical paper, subsequently published, were all of a most interesting character. The Premier of Manitoba, Hon. John Norquay, fittingly closed the speech-making of the day in a very happy manner, and bore testimony to Dr. Black's recognized excellence, the widespread affection for his memory and the influence for good he was enabled to exert. It was a red-letter day in the Presbyterian history of the North-West, and one to be remembered by those who from great distances were privileged to be present.

#### Books and Magazines.

FROM ONTARIO TO THE PACIFIC BY THE C. P. R. Mrs. Arthur Spragge. (Toronto: C. Blackett Robinson.)—This is much more than a mere guide book. It contains copious information concerning the vast country traversed by the greatest of our Canadian railways. The writing is clear, compact and vivacious. No reader, however fastidious, will be inclined to lay it aside with disappointment.

HUMOUR, PITH AND PATHOS. A Book of Readings and Recitations. Compiled and Adapted by Rev. James Cooke Seymour. (Toronto: William Briggs.)—The compiler of this little volume has been successful in supplying young people with a varied and suitable collection of readings and recitations for social gatherings. It is fitted not only to amuse, but to convey some excellent lessons. Not the least merit of the compilation is the absence from its pages of worn-out and hackneyed selections.

A TEXT BOOK OF CHEMISTRY FOR STUDENTS OF MEDICINE. By W. L. Goodwin, D.Sc., Edin. (Toronto: Copp, Clark & Co.)—Professor Goodwin, of Queen's University, has by this publication rendered valuable service to students of medicine and all others who are desirous of mastering the details of chemical science. It begins at the beginning, and step by step leads the student forward in the intricacies of this most delightful branch of learning. Every page bears evidence of scrupulous care and accuracy. The value of the work is much enhanced by the addition of a number of analytical tables.

THE ESSENTIALS OF PERSPECTIVE. With Illustrations drawn by the Author. By L. W. Millar, Principal of the School of Industrial Art, of the Pennsylvania Museum, Philadelphia. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.)—This is a work that will be of great service to art students whether professional or amateurs. It is written not by a theorizer, but by an experienced and successful teacher of drawing. The nature of the work will readily be learned from its contents. There are ten chapters, one devoted to the subjects in the order named. First Principles, the Horizon, Measurement by Means of Parallels, Measurement by Means of Diagonals, Measurement by Means of Triangles, the Perspective of Curves, a Question of Methods, Shadows, Reflections and Cylindrical, Curvilinear or Panoramic perspective. The illustrations are very numerous, and will prove most helpful to art students.

#### THE MISSIONARY WORLD.

CENTRAL INDIA MISSION.—REV. R. C. MURRAY'S REPORT.

If my report is to be a true index of experience and work done, it should be short and rather rambling.

Mhow was my home for the greater part of the year, where the time was largely devoted to the study of the language, religious customs, etc., of the people, and in rendering some assistance to Mr. Builder in his Sunday school and district work. After having examined all the fields likely to be occupied by our missionary for some time to come, Ujjain was chosen, as the most desirable and needy field, and in February the sanction of the Foreign Mission Committee was received, when we at once began work. Much cannot be said where little has been done, the time has been short, and results do not appear in a day, especially in conservative Hindustan. Little more can be said just now than that a beginning has been made—and where and what are our prospects?

Ujjain, though a new mission centre, has been visited occasionally by Mr. Wilkie, and also two native catechists were stationed here, in connection with Indore. Narayan, through his tact, energy and faithfulness, gathered together a number of boys, and had a very good school. But soon after his departure for the Theological Seminary, Saharanpur, the school rapidly dwindled away. The other helper was not sufficiently robust to carry on the work alone. In the early part of November he was removed to Indore. Had it been possible for the old workers to hold the fort until the new ones entered the field we would have been better able to keep the foothold gained. As it is, we have particularly to start in virgin soil. However, we trust the work done here may not be lost but may yet yield an abundant harvest.

Through the kindness of the American Marathi Mission, we have secured two catechist teachers, and their wives and they are now at work. Two vernacular schools for boys have been opened; one has an attendance of upwards of forty boys, the other is growing daily. The school for girls has only been open for ten days, and as this is something entirely new for Ujjain, we cannot yet speak confidently.

At our last meeting of council, permission was granted to open an English school. One teacher, a native of the city, who can speak English fairly well and whose influence we hope may be helpful, has been secured. We expect to open this school at once; or as soon as a place and an additional Christian teacher can be obtained. One of the school rooms we use for Sunday school and preaching service. It is not very large, but will do for a little while.

This is an inviting field for medical work. The sanitary condition of the city is very bad. Indeed filthiness is considered a virtue, and in such surroundings diseases of every type are terribly prevalent. A medical missionary could reach the hearts, and gain the confidence of these poor sufferers, much better than any other can do. One man, who recently lost his wife through improper treatment or for lack of any treatment, has offered Rs.500 for a hospital or place where women might receive medical attendance. In the hope of getting some one to take charge of the work we intend opening a dispensary as soon as practicable. Would that an earnest appeal on behalf of Ujjain might reach the ears and hearts of some of our young Christian doctors in Canada!

We are not, as yet, able to live in the city, as there is no suitable place that we can get; and in the meantime are under the inconvenience of living at Indore, some forty miles from our real work. I sincerely trust that this may not last long, but that we may soon secure land on which a bungalow may be built. Even if we should be able to rent a native house in the bazaar, I am not yet sure that it would be wise for us to live there, in a city like Ujjain.

Since the death of Maharaja Scindia a year ago, the Durbar has been vigorously improving the condition of the State. Ujjain is to share in these advantages. Just now surveyors are at work, and soon we hope the crooked, rough and impassible roads may be replaced by something more worthy of city and State. Shall we not fervently hope and earnestly pray that these physical improvements may be the immediate forerunner of the spiritual, moral and intellectual change that shall yet come when "an high way shall be there."