

The Presbyterian Review.

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Toronto, January 24, 1895.

The Busy Reaper.

THE year 1895 has already laid to its account a heavy bill of mortality in which not a few who have been prominent in the Presbyterian Church are numbered. From the maritime provinces comes the news of Mr. Hugh Ross' death by which sad event New Glasgow has lost one of its most exemplary Christian citizens and one who was in many respects a notable man. Nearer home there falls to be recorded the deaths of Messrs. A. M. Smith, A. R. Christie, and Robert Green, of Toronto. The former of these three was known throughout the country as a merchant prince, whose integrity, public spirit and high character were equalled only by his intense love for the church of his fathers and of his choice. For the long span of half a century he was connected with Knox Church, as a consistent member, a trustee and latterly an elder in the discharge of the duties of which he found much spiritual comfort and fruition. His hospitable home was the resort of brethren visiting the city many of whom will miss his kindly welcome and his pleasant companionship. Messrs. Christie and Green, were men whom to know was to love. In their circles they wielded the influence never dissociated from the personality in which the religious element predominates.

Missionaries Visiting Congregations.

In a paragraph in the last number of our contemporary the *Canada Presbyterian* it was stated that missionaries give special attention to city and town congregations, along the railway lines, whilst other congregations more remote are neglected. That remark is in line with complaints that frequently come to me in correspondence and accordingly justifies a word of explanation as to the policy of the Foreign Mission Committee. It is probably known that our missionaries when at home are under the direction of the Committee and that therefore the Committee is responsible if there is any just cause for complaint. The missionaries are not to blame. I think, when the facts are known, that you will acknowledge that there is no ground for complaint.

There are just three methods of employing these returned missionaries.—either allowing them to respond to as many as possible of the invitations that come for their services, or arranging a systematic invitation of all congregations in the Presbyteries continuously, or a combination of both. We have been trying the latter course. There are a great many special and urgent occasions when a missionary's presence is extremely

important, such as the many Presbyterian meetings of the W.F.M.S. now being held. At one such gathering a missionary will touch more congregations than in a month's systematic visitation. There are then these persistent people who are ever asking and sometimes show signs of displeasure unless their claims are liberally responded to. Probably the most profitable way is to yield to their solicitations as freely as possible, and instead of being angry with them, to feel thankful that they are so earnest in their desires for the education and stimulation of their people. On the other hand there has been regular Presbyterian visitation. Mr. MacVicar went through two or more Presbyteries, besides much occasional visiting. Mr. Jamieson is at present doing this in Quebec. Mr. Slimmon is now going through the Presbytery of Stratford, visiting every congregation and he has, so far as could be arranged visited one or two of the Eastern Presbyteries. Mr. Goforth, who has done far too much work since his return—and the Committee seems unable to restrain him—has I believe visited the greater part of the Maitland Presbytery besides numberless other promiscuous calls. Mr. Campbell is making an effort to visit and address Presbyteries, at their regular meetings, thinking he can do most good in that way, during the short time he expects to be in Canada. He is constantly visiting congregations in the intervals. Dr. MacKay made an effort to touch the leading points from east to west, for the cry for him was universal, and if he had been confined too long to one corner visiting every Church, there would have been a rebellion. Unfortunately the Canadian winter proved too severe for even his constitution, after twenty two years in a tropical climate so that the Committee requested him to desist and protect himself from dangerous exposure. He is at present engaged by request of the Committee and so consequently not visiting continuously. These are the lines upon which the Committee is endeavoring to work and I think they will be generally approved. It will also be admitted that as the interest in missions awakens and the demand increases, there is danger of overwork, and that the furlough instead of being a rest, and help to the missions may become a positive hindrance.—R. P. MACKAY.

A Ministerial Calendar.

The ladies of Knox church, Embro, have had prepared a calendar of historic and ecclesiastical interest as well as a thing of beauty. It represents in picturesque form the history of one of the oldest and most successful congregations in the Presbyterian Church in Canada. On the centre panel is a representation of the present church building with the date of erection beneath, 1862-3. They who are acquainted with the locality and will highly value this work of art will regret that the older church, erected 1836 still standing near by in the midst of the graveyard, surrounded by many silent monuments of the past has not found a place. The original church known as the Log Church, was erected in 1832, about three miles from Embro. It also would have been a pleasant reminiscence but it has long been dismantled, before lithographs became so common as they now are. These dates which are however supplied embrace and will suggest to many sixty years of not only ecclesiastical, but sacred history. There are four portraits surrounding the central section, the