

had meetings without number to contend with and perhaps the advertising was not as judicious as might have been. We visited many very beautiful grounds in the town and few towns have so many, and I secured a number of views from Capt. Cox which I send you. I am not sure you can use them, but I send them with the chance that you can. If not send them back to the Capt. who is Postmaster of Paris. He will of course give you all information if you could give the grounds a notice. They are quite extensive and take the time of a man during the season.

I have been endeavoring to reach the local papers this trip with what result I scarcely know as they have failed to forward anything to me, except the Galt paper which I forward to you. Miss Rose is doing excellent work. The Galt paper report does not do her justice. Her object is rather to stimulate a love for gardening than to go into detail. She gives an excellent address to the children, taking up the distribution of seeds in a familiar way. Her platform presence is very effective, combining dignity and geniality in manner with freedom of expression and happy turns of thought, so that she never fails to secure the respect and attention of her audience, young and old.

We so often interfere with church meeting that I think it would be well to make a special effort in the future to secure the co-operation of the churches. In the smaller places the church meetings occupy a very large portion of the spare time of the very people we wish to reach. A minstrel show or a comic opera does not draw heavily on this class, but we do. Two or three nights in the week the people we want are at "Young People's Meetings" "Missionary Meetings" "Prayer Meeting," etc. Clearly one or the other must give way. We endeavor to place our meetings on as high a moral plane as the church meetings, and

if the local societies will choose their officers (and in all cases, as far as I know they have done so,) from those who will work in harmony with the churches, I see no reason why we should not ask the churches to postpone their meetings in favor of ours, as ours cannot be postponed. We discussed this matter at Mitchell where we had seven ministers, and the consensus of opinion was that such a plan was feasible. There need of course be no official recognition of the churches, as the whole thing would be a matter of courtesy arranged between the officers of each society, locally. I am visiting as many of the local gardens and grounds as I can. I believe the delegate would greatly increase the popularity and usefulness of the lecture course if he were able and willing to place himself in the hands of a local committee who could take him to the grounds already planted, and point out there, to those who wished it, the merits and defects (he had better confine himself to the former,) of the planting, or go to new places and make suggestions as to the arrangement and selection of trees, shrubs, vines and plants, flower plots, etc., on the ground. He could use these very effectively, as I know from experience, in his evening talk, and at the same time greatly relieve people who are willing to spend money on their places but don't know how to do it with advantage.

I purpose to write later to Mr. Creelman on these points. We are having a very busy trip. I am scarcely an hour between breakfast and midnight that I am not either with the local officers or on the train.

Perhaps some of the subjects I have touched this morning may be profitably commented upon in the Horticulturist. If you think so, why, of course, use anything you can, and I will be glad to develop the points further if you will indicate the line.

Yours very truly,  
Seaforth, April 17, 1901. A. McNEILL.