

leader selected the tune, perhaps, on page 430. The strange spectacle then presented itself of both choir and congregation holding their books open at two places at once, and attempting to "keep track" of both words and music by playing peep-bo from side to side of the "centre-bit." Our sense of the becoming soon compelled us to discontinue this "double shuffle." "As you were" was suggested, the uncut Hymnals were packed away, the choir—standing in couples—seized their "lutes" with their outside hands advanced, and their old hymn-books with their inside hands, and sang in the good old way—the congregation following at a respectful distance behind—as usual. I am convinced that similar results would follow all attempts to introduce the "uncut" into our Presbyterian congregations. Besides, as a matter of business the publishers should issue a "cut" edition, as, in the event of the uncut being brought out, everyone, knowing its uselessness, will canvass against it, while they would take pains to induce their fellow-worshippers to provide themselves with copies of the "cut."

ANOTHER PRECENTOR.

Caledonia, November 14th, 1881.

### HYMNAL WITH TUNES.

MR. EDITOR,—Allow me a few words in reply to the friendly criticism of "Precentor" in your issue of the 11th, and of "A. Henderson" in your last issue.

One remark on a point of fact. "Precentor" is mistaken in saying that there are "no marks of expression used." He will find the hymns (with very few exceptions) marked *p*, *f*, etc., in the same manner as in most modern hymn books. The chief objection made in both communications is to the adoption of the "fixed tune" system. Let me state in the briefest way a few points:

1. Nearly all the hymn books lately issued are on the "fixed tune" plan. The new United Presbyterian book, which has been in use for some time in Scotland, and the new Hymnal of the Free Church of Scotland, which is in course of preparation, are both on this plan.

2. Permission to use a good many of the best tunes in our book was obtained on condition of their being set to no other hymns than those for which they were composed.

3. The children of our Sabbath schools have been accustomed to the "fixed tune" system in Bateman's and Saekey's books, and no difficulty has arisen from the great variety of tunes.

4. The tunes in our new book are for the most part simple and easily learned. With the exception of the "Te Deum" and "Gloria in Excelsis," and two or three other doxologies, there is nothing beyond the capacity of the average precentor and the average congregation. In a large number of cases a second-tune has been inserted because it is more popular than the first one.

5. There will be in every congregation chosen hymns as well as "its own chosen score or two of tunes," and this fact goes a long way to meet the objection based on the large number of tunes. "Precentor" reckons that "there will be at the most fifty hymns that can be sung from a hymn book with nearly four hundred hymns in it to select from." The probability is that from fifty to a hundred hymns will be all that will be ordinarily used by any one minister. The difficulty, therefore, of arranging with the precentor or the choir will not be by any means so great as is imagined. Moreover, it will not be impossible, though it will be inconvenient, to use in some cases a different tune from the one set to a particular hymn.

The Committee considered very carefully the question raised by your correspondents, and came to the conclusion that the "fixed tune" system was the better. Whatever difference of opinion there may be on this matter, I trust that the book which has just been issued will be fairly tried before it is pronounced "practically useless" even for congregations with but little musical cultivation. I am persuaded that the difficulties in the way of using it are vastly over-estimated.

D. J. MACDONNELL.

Toronto, Nov. 21st, 1881.

THE marked improvement in nearly all branches of business, consequent on the general good harvest and fair prices of all kinds of produce, should make a canvass easy. A push all along the line for renewals and new subscriptions is sure to result in large accessions to our list in every locality.

### QUEEN'S COLLEGE MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION.

The first meeting of the above Association was held in the College on Nov. 5th, when reports of retiring officers were received, and new officers elected for the current year. The following are those elected: President, Geo. MacArthur, B.A.; Vice-President, L. W. Thom; Corresponding Secretary, John Young; Recording Secretary, John Hay; Treasurer, John Moore, B.A.; and Librarian, John McLeod. The other members of the Executive Committee are David Forest, D. A. McLean, A. McAulay and L. Perrin. Several new members were added to the Association.

The next regular meeting was held on Saturday Nov. 19, the president in the chair. The report of the retiring treasurer showed a balance on hand from last year of \$36.95 after all liabilities were met. This, together with the largely increased subscriptions of students from their various fields, places the financial affairs of the Association on a more solid footing than ever before. Three of the students who laboured directly under the auspices of the Association reported as follows:—Mr. W. J. Shank, laboured in the Presbytery of Kingston, in the mission field known as Hinchinbrooke and Sharbot Lake, fifty miles north of Kingston. He had in all four stations—Piccadilly and Kennedy's Hall to the south, and Tryan's Settlement and Sharbot Lake ten miles further north. These he supplied on alternate Sabbaths. The country he reports as generally very rough and rocky, but though the people were troubled very much with drought and bush fires (with which they had to fight for weeks), yet the attendance at services was very good. There is a flourishing Sabbath-school at Piccadilly, and through the valuable assistance of Mr. McKillop, of the Montreal Sabbath-School Union, schools were started in each of the other stations also. Sharbot Lake is undoubtedly the most important station, as it is the proposed junction of the Toronto and Ottawa R. R., and the seat of the large charcoal works lately started, as well as a great summer resort. These stations are to be supplied regularly by the Association during the winter months.

John Hay gave an interesting report of his work at Merrickville, Farmersville etc., in Brockville Presbytery. The early part of his work was much hampered by the desire of the Presbytery that he should keep up regular services in two places so far distance as the above—they being over twenty-five miles apart. So at the request of the people of Merrickville, and with consent of the Presbytery, he gave up Farmersville in July, and concentrated all his efforts upon one group of stations viz, Merrickville, Buzzitt's Rapids, etc. The result was most satisfactory. Though the people here have not had regular service for years, yet they have now, with the help of Presbytery, secured the services of an ordained missionary amongst them for a year.

A. McAulay reported from the Mississippi station, seventy miles north of Kingston. This is a new group of stations, there never having been regular services there before. Owing to this, the people are very backward, but still anxious to hear the "glorious Gospel." The country is too rough for farming, and the chief interests are lumbering and mining. There were in all seven preaching stations, which necessitated his holding five services weekly. At Mississippi station he preached for a while in Allen's saw-mill, but the noise of the water made it so inconvenient that, under his own leadership, the people resolved to build a log school-house. The attendance here often exceeded 150. He distributed tracts and hymn books amongst the hundreds of miners and lumbermen, and traversed the greater part of four townships. When we remember that all this was done on foot, often through rough woods and wet marshes, we ought to appreciate the labours of Mr. McAulay.

Chas. L. Herald, who laboured in Muskoka, was absent on account of illness, but two letters were read, one from the people amongst whom he laboured, and another from Rev. R. Moodie, of Stayner (convener of Barrie Presbytery), expressing a high appreciation of the services he rendered, and a strong desire that he should return to them next summer. Mr. McNeil not being prepared to report, a most successful and enthusiastic meeting was brought to a close with prayer and praise.

JOHN YOUNG, Cor. Sect.

CLUB Agents for THE PRESBYTERIAN may secure a number of valuable standard books as the result of a few hours' work. Write for Premium List.

### KNOX COLLEGE STUDENTS' MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The second monthly meeting of this Society, for the present term, was held in the College on Wednesday evening, the 9th inst. After devotional exercises, six of the students who had been engaged in mission work during the past summer presented their reports. The two Muskoka fields heard from were Daysville and Katribe and Emsdale. The readers of THE PRESBYTERIAN have already had a very interesting account of these in the published report of the Rev. Mr. Findlay, of Bracebridge. The missionaries to St. Joseph's Island and Bruce Mines, in Algoma, gave an encouraging statement of their work. During the summer the sacraments were administered in these two fields by the Rev. Mr. Strath, of Paisley. In the former place twelve united with the Church, and four in the latter.

Essex Centre was occupied by the Society last summer for the first time. It is a thriving village of between 1,200 and 1,400 inhabitants, and is situated in Essex County, on the line of the Canada Southern Railway. The nearest Presbyterian congregation (Rev. Mr. King's) is fourteen miles distant. The Canada Methodists kindly gave the use of their church for holding services in during the summer, but as the Presbyterians desire to have a place of worship of their own they are already moving in that direction, and are intending to commence building operations next spring. It is expected that Essex Centre, with two adjoining stations, viz, Woodslee and Brainard, will ere long be self-supporting. The Chatham Presbytery, on being informed of the prospects of the field, unanimously passed a vote of thanks to the Society, and also undertook to supply the stations during the coming winter.

The other field heard from was Turtle Mountain. This district, situated in the south-western part of Manitoba, is about 180 miles from Winnipeg, and is being very rapidly settled. Eighteen months ago there were only thirteen settlers, but now there are about a thousand, the majority of whom are Presbyterians. About six hundred of the settlers have purchased farms from the Government, while the rest are waiting for the sections set apart for railroad purposes to be placed in the market. The price of goods is very high owing to the cost of transportation, the charge for freight from Winnipeg being three dollars per hundred pounds. The South-western Railway is expected to be constructed as far as Turtle Mountain in about a year. The Society's missionary found a comfortable home with an adherent of the Roman Catholic Church, who not only treated him with the utmost kindness, but gave his store for the purpose of holding services in. There are six preaching stations in that district, and in each of these public worship was conducted fortnightly during the summer. Your readers may have some idea of the labour involved in overtaking the work when it is stated that every alternate Saturday the missionary walked thirty miles, and the next day seventeen, preaching three times. Besides these six places, Badger Crossing, situated thirty miles east of Turtle Mountain, was eight times visited during the summer. It may be stated that there was not a single house in this long stretch of thirty miles, which the missionary had to travel on foot. Arrangements are being made to erect a Presbyterian church at Zulu, one of the stations. The building is expected to be ready for occupation next spring, and is to be called "Knox Church."

After the reports were disposed of, a letter was read conveying the thanks of the Barrie Presbytery to the Society "for the valuable services rendered by the Society's representatives this summer, as well as in former years." The Clerk also asked for statistical information respecting the various stations within the bounds of the Presbytery, that this might appear in the annual returns published by the General Assembly. Two verses of the missionary hymn were then sung, and the meeting was closed with the benediction.

JAS. A. HAMILTON, Cor. Secretary.

THERE is at present, among our neighbours in the United States, some talk of having "Gospel cars" on the railroads to afford opportunity for social worship or for social Bible study. In noticing this movement the "S. S. Times" is, perhaps inadvertently, too severe on smokers. "After all," it says, "why should the travelling Christian public have fewer privileges on the railroad than the smoking public?"