

The debate on the Temperance Question was vigorous, spirited and of marked ability. The General Assembly was a unit in desire to put down the unmitigated curse of strong drink, but differed slightly as to the method. However, the finding was very pronounced in favour of prohibition. Mr. McKay, of Woodstock, led the way in a clever and very impressive speech, crying, No quarter with the liquor traffic. The little "tilt" between the Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, of Toronto, and the Hon. D. C. Fraser made things quite lively for a while, and ended somewhat to the discomfiture of the Toronto man.

Some advanced very broad views on the Temperance question, and no doubt had the courage of conviction. But it does seem strange and galls considerably to hear remarks on the floor of our highest Church courts that do in any way countenance or bolster up the liquor traffic. Some even went so far as to say the Bible did not teach total abstinence. If the Bible does not teach this it teaches nothing that is moral and good. If it encourages in the slightest degree the gigantic demon of intemperance then it must have been written by bad men, and if so, it is not inspired of God.

The talking this year, as other years, was done by a few. This seems to be a necessary evil. But the silent number, the rank and file of the Assembly, did good work by their votes if not by their voice. The members were usually very conscientious in attendance, and very few could be seen walking about during the sederunt. The Moderator discharged his duties with statesmanlike ability and gravity. It will give unmitigated satisfaction to the Irish portion of the Church to have such a representative Irishman as Mr. McMullen so gracefully and with such dignity occupying the Moderator's chair. We hope that "Knox" or some of our colleges in Canada, not the States (we don't want our Moderator to go to the States for a degree), will put a handle to his name before long. He is worthy of the honour. Senates of our colleges, attention!

(To be concluded.)

#### A PLEASANT VACATION.

BY REV. JAMES GOURLAY, PORT ELGIN, ONT.

We had the good fortune to sail in the steamship *Pacific*, the captain of which, Mr. P. M. Campbell, is well-known in Port Elgin, where his parents resided for many years, and well known, too, by the travelling public, as one of the most obliging and courteous, as well as skilful, seamen on our lakes. My intention is to confine myself to a short account of three days spent most pleasantly on the small island of Agrad about eighteen miles from Gore Bay, and near the mouth of the Spanish River. On this island the Arnold Lumber Company have established their mills, a visit to which afforded me so much pleasure and interest that I feel called upon to write a few words regarding them. Though not so large as the mills at Serpent River, a little further west, they have a capacity of 100,000 feet per day, and employ during the summer months about fifty hands, and a larger number in winter. The company also own a farm of some 1,000 acres about eight miles up the river. The whole is under the able management of Mr. Heizordt, who devotes himself to looking after the welfare of the men as well as the interests of the owners. What most struck me was the care which the company has for the temporal, moral and spiritual welfare of the employees.

We are accustomed to speak of companies and corporations as if they had no conscience, and as if, in the words of Carlyle, "cash payments were the sole nexus of society," but here, away in this northern region, we have come on a spot where the capitalists show that they have an interest in their men, more than that of simply making as much money out of them as possible. We could not help remarking that if the plan adopted here were in general use, there would be very little seen of the conflict between capital and labour which is now, unfortunately, almost everywhere going on. If capitalists would only act as Christian men, with duties and responsibilities towards their employees, there would be far less heard of bitter strife and mutual animosities. We were not surprised to learn that the heads of the company, Messrs. Arnold and Folsom, occupy prominent places in the Churches with which they are connected, and we were delighted to see that they carry their Chris-

tianity into their business relations. The neatness and trimness of the mill buildings and the houses in connection therewith, all of which are the property of the company, strike you at once as you approach the dock. The houses are all nicely painted, substantial and in good repair, so different from what one would expect to find under such circumstances.

The boarding houses are well kept and provided for, as we can testify. When we mention that prohibition is as strictly enforced as it is possible for it to be under the most stringent regulations, you will easily believe that the workmen are a very superior class. Where the regular steamers are calling ten times a week, and other boats occasionally, it must be difficult to keep intoxicating drinks entirely out, but so strict are the regulations which lead to the instant dismissal of any man who has been found drunk, and so steady are the employees that the offence is of rare occurrence. The men themselves appreciate the interest shown in their welfare, and show their appreciation by the length of time they remain in the employment of the company, and their readiness to return if they have gone elsewhere. The wages paid are good, and the opportunities of spending, few, so that any one who wishes to save has a good opportunity for doing so. I was pleased to learn that the Indians in this locality are diligent and hard-working. The mere fact that they earn \$1.75 cents a day for loading the barges with lumber, shows that they can work and work well when they choose. Those whom I saw, both men and squaws, were well dressed, and showed that they were not deprived of the comforts of life.

But the capitalists are not less interested in the spiritual welfare of the little world at Spanish Mills than in their moral and temporal. For five years past, they have, at their own expense, engaged, the services of a student of the American Presbyterian Church for the summer months. Anxious that in winter, as well as in summer, the means of grace should be supplied to the people, who are otherwise cut off from services, application was made last year to the Home Mission Committee, through the Presbytery of Bruce, for the appointment of an ordained missionary to labour in their field and have a general superintendence of the district to the north thereof. Although disappointed last fall, they recently succeeded in securing the services of Mr. J. J. Elliott, B.A., a graduate of Knox College, who has cheerfully entered on the work, with every prospect of success, and this brings me to the real object of my visit to Spanish Mills, namely, the licensure of Mr. Elliott and his ordination.

An urgent request was made to the Presbytery of Bruce at its recent meeting that, if possible, the ordination should take place on the field where Mr. Elliott is to labour and as a commission of the Home Mission Committee was to be in Algoma during August, advantage was taken of their presence and a meeting of Presbytery was appointed to be held at Spanish Mills, on August 16. At this meeting, Rev. Messrs. Tolmie, McLennan and Goulay were present from the Presbytery of Bruce, and associated with them were Revs. W. T. McMullen, of Woodstock, Moderator of the General Assembly, Cockburn, of Uxbridge, a member of the Home Mission Committee, and Findlay, Superintendent of Missions in Algoma. All the ministers present took part in the ordination service. The meeting was one of great interest to the people, all of whom had done their utmost to make it a success. As it was the first meeting of a Presbytery that had ever been held within the District of Algoma, and the first ordination of a Presbyterian minister that had ever been celebrated there, it was recognized as a red letter day in the history, not only of the congregation at Spanish Mills, but of Presbyterianism in this district, which within the past few years, under the able and diligent superintendence of Mr. Findlay, has been making substantial and rapid progress. If the occasion was one of interest to the people, it was also one of interest and pleasure to the members of Presbytery. Everything possible was done to make the visit an agreeable one, and the kindness shown by all, but especially by Mr. and Mrs. Heizordt, was something to be remembered. The friendliness and kindness displayed during the few days' visit, produced so deep an impression, that, in separating, we felt as if we were parting from friends whom we had long known. Our time was not wholly occupied, as you may suppose, with Presbyterian

work. We had boating and fishing and climbing over rocks and visiting historic scenes, such as the passage of little Detroit, the scene, according to story, of a deadly battle between the Hurons and Ojibways, a passage so narrow that you could almost leap ashore from either side of the steamer as it passes through, and from forty to sixty feet in depth. We have now spent nearly a week at Gore Bay, and have enjoyed rambling along the many pleasant walks which are to be found in the neighbourhood. In a few more days we will be wending our way homeward, carrying with us the remembrance of a very pleasant holiday trip.

#### THE STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE.

BY C. M. COPELAND, WINNIPEG.

The Eleventh World's Conference of Young Men's Christian Associations met in Stockholm, Sweden, on Wednesday, August 15. But before reporting the Conference it will not be uninteresting to say something as to how we got there.

A party of 100, composed of English, Scotch, Irish and American delegates, met at Edinburgh on Friday, August 30, and that evening embarked at Leith on the steamer *Sirius*—Captain Juell—of "The Bergenske and Nordenfjeldsen Steamship Company," for a trip among the Norwegian fiords to Thronthjem, and then by rail to Stockholm.

Among the Americans—of whom there were some thirty odd—were the Canadian delegates, Rev. Messrs. L. H. Jordan, of Erskine Church, Montreal; A. H. Scott, of Perth; Mr. Baldwin, a recent graduate of Trinity College, Toronto; Mr. Robert D. Richardson and our writer, from Winnipeg.

The effect of the sea air on Saturday was not such as to conduce to sociability and the attractions of stateroom, or desk, or gazing into the blue depths of ocean were greater—for the majority of the passengers—than the table, though laden with ample supplies of reindeer meat, cheese of various kinds and other northern delicacies. Early Sunday morning, however, we arrived at Hangesund, and were soon sailing in the calm waters and amid the beautiful scenery of Hardanger Fjord.

At ten o'clock, service was conducted on deck by Rev. Dr. King, of New York, and in the afternoon Mr. Miller, of London, conducted a Bible class. About eight p.m. anchor was cast off Odde, a quiet little village of perhaps a dozen buildings, at the head of Sor Fjord, an arm of the Hardanger, where many of the party went ashore and attended a Church of England service, conducted in the village church by a missionary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.

The steamer lay here all day Monday, while the party divided into companies to visit the various points of interest in the neighbourhood. Our company went to the valley of the Lofos, visiting several waterfalls; a second, to the Skjæggedalsfos, said to be the finest waterfall in Europe; and a third, including your correspondent, to the Buarbræ, a very fine glacier, which advanced 260 feet in 1870, and is still moving down the valley of the picturesque Jordal, by which it is reached. I should judge that this glacier keeps step with many other Scandinavian institutions, in fact one is tempted to think that the glacier will win the race.

Tuesday morning we arrived at Bergen, an important town of 30,000, and the centre of the fishing trade in the North Sea. Here the delegates participated in the ceremony of laying the corner stone of a new building for the Young Men's Christian Association of the place, after which they were entertained at lunch. Many things here indicated that we were in a foreign land.

In passing up one of the streets we observed the sidewalk in front of a house strewn with small pieces of pine. Upon inquiring the meaning of this we were told that some one was dead in the house. This is their method of indicating the presence of the great enemy. In looking at it from a Christian standpoint it seems a more fitting emblem than the sombre crape which we use, for our Lord has already given us the victory over death.

The Association building is a two-story brick building, situated in the business centre of the city, and is to cost \$25,000.

Next morning at half-past five we left by special train for Vossevangen, a distance of sixty-six English miles, passing through some very beautiful scen-