

who knew that procrastination is the thief of—eternity. What a difference it would make in all our preaching if we really believed each time we spoke that hearts might be changed forever as the words were uttered. He always believed, always remembered this, and so it is that when the preacher's heart grows faint and cold, he can find no better refreshment than Mr. Spurgeon's sermons. It is indeed a frozen heart that does not warm as the flame of these words surround it."

From the Northwest.

DEAR EDITOR: In connection with your kindly personal reference on the occasion of our departure for the West, you intimated that a report from us in the new quarters would be acceptable. You will be the more considerate of my tardiness in acknowledging your kindness, as you realize I have only been awaiting the time and opportunity to report. The extras of settling have left me little time for correspondence. Your recent editorial on alarmists reports of the severity of the western winter suggest that I break the silence lest eastern friends might fear we have perished in this far northwest. We however have been more concerned about our eastern friends during the excessive winter weather than about ourselves, for reports of death from frost in Montreal and even in New York have reached us. We have been looking for some of those "dreadful" out-west things to happen such as we hear of when in the East. But they haven't yet put in an appearance. We look to the east for them now.

We can speak of northern Alberta climate. With a full winter's experience behind, our verdict is, beautiful! The lowest temperature of Jan. was 22 below, but for the most part the month was fall-like, a little cooler than eastern October. February, however treated us to 40 below and March was quite as merciless. The general verdict is that it has been the coldest winter experienced in the country. But to us easterners this seems strange for we have not felt the cold as we do on the Atlantic. In fact we never could believe the temperature to be so low but for the thermometer. The atmosphere is very dry, the cold is not felt so keenly. We did not see a drop of rain after leaving St. John early in December till April 23rd when we had enough to lay the dust. The snow has not been more than 30 inches in the open. The wind never blows beyond what would be a welcome breeze to a yachtsman. The worst blow occurred Mar. 23rd when a good stiff breeze carried the snow along the ground (not into the air) and sifted the trails full, but left no drifts. Our daily train from Calgary, a distance of 197 miles has not been delayed an hour by snow all winter. The sun has not failed to appear on any day. Some days have been overcast in part. The country is rightly called "Sunny Alberta."

The snow was well covering the fields of the Maritimes when we left St. John, and we continued the ride over a white-clad country for a distance of 1500 miles. It was an impressive sight. The critics of Kipling's phrase "our lady of the snows" probably never rode across the continent when snow-clad from the Atlantic to the Rockies, or their even less poetic natures would have been stirred sympathetically with the famous bard's phrase. We found less snow at this point, however, than we left in N.E. The blinding storms of which you read are farther south on the prairies and in the western states. It is a very common thing for ranchers to lose cattle in those quarters if they are permitted to herd at the fence or in a hollow on the prairie. But we rarely ever hear of such losses in northern Alberta.

We spent two days in the city of Winnipeg, which has grown from 50,000 in 1902 to 75,000 in 1904. Jack Frost extended a cold reception (it was 35 degrees below zero.) But the warmth of the Baptist brotherhood in their reception made us forget the cool atmosphere. Progress marks the Baptist cause of the great metropolis. We were especially pleased to meet of the Maritime men, Pastor Vincent, who is wielding a keen two-edged blade in pulpit and press, and Pastor Patterson who goes to Prince Albert after a successful pastorate at Nena St. Brother H. H. Hall, so well known in the East, is residing at Winnipeg recruiting his health.

At Calgary we found Pastor Litch still doing a progressive work. An afternoon spent at a ranch of one of his church members three miles from town was most interesting. Seventy-five horses and 175 cattle on a 640 acre farm is the substantial accumulation of this New Brunswicker of 11 years residence in the West. He could retire from business. When he unloaded his car of furniture and stock 11 years ago his capital was too small to pay his freight in full. This is an indicator of the possibilities of the country.

Our town is situated on the high bank of the Saskatchewan river, opposite Edmonton. It was formerly called South Edmonton, but was incorporated in 1899 under the new name. The town is 12 years old and in that time has grown to 3000 inhabitants. Edmonton has 6000. The two towns are rapidly developing and will in no great distant date probably form one city. The Canadian Northern Railway is fast pushing on to this point and the Grand Trunk Pacific will touch here also. It needs no prophet to tell the rest. The locations of both towns are good, their elevation of 300 feet above the river gives ex-

cellent drainage. The abundant growth of poplar and small willow forms a striking contrast to the monotony of the treeless prairies. Limitless areas of coal are found here, a boy may go out to the river banks and gather a hand-sled of coal where it crops out. It is a good steam coal and while it has not as much heating power per ton, is superior to Nova Scotia coal for domestic purposes.

Our schools are not inferior to any we have found in the East. The government is pursuing a wise policy in providing liberally for education. About 70 per cent of the school expenses is provided by the Government. This makes taxes comparatively light (about 4 cents per acre on an average in the country), and brings the school within reach of all settled sections. Teachers are remunerated much more liberally than in the East. The average salary is from \$45 to \$50 per month. Good board can be procured in the country for \$3 per week. We find many more young men teaching here than in the East. In our town schools, of ten teachers five are young men. Salary probably is a partial explanation of the fact that so many young men take to teaching.

C. W. CORRY.

Strathcona, Alberta, May 6th, 1904.

(Continued next week.)

Ontario Letter.

REV. P. K. DAYFOOT.

Good Friday is the regular day for the holding of a provincial rally of the B. Y. P. U. One reason for that is that the railways grant single fares to all passengers for the Easter excursions, and the day being a holiday, many can take advantage of it, who could not otherwise get away from work. So it came to pass that 300 Baptist young people gathered in the James St. church building in Hamilton, Ont., on Thursday evening March 31st, for the opening service of a most excellent convention. There were words of welcome from the Mayor of the city, one of the city pastors and the president of the city unions. This was followed by an address on "Educational Principles involved in the B. Y. P. U." by Dr. Tracey of the Provincial and McMaster Universities, and another on "Educational Ideals of the B. Y. P. U." by Pastor J. D. Freeman of Toronto.

Friday afternoon offered a full programme. Rev. C. J. Cameron, Field Secretary of the McMaster University, spoke on "Value of Question and Answer"; Rev. J. J. Reeve, St. George, described "the Christian's Reading"; Rev. M. D. Colman, St. Catharines, discussed "The Personal Element in Education." The session closed with a missionary conference led by Rev. W. E. Norton, Supt. of Home Missions. In addition to routine business, and a spirit advertising of the Detroit Convention, there were two addresses by prominent men. Dr. Perry of Jarvis St., Toronto, spoke on "Educational Achievements of the B. Y. P. U.," and Dr. Gifford of Buffalo, N. Y., closed the convention with a rousing description of the "Educational Possibilities of the B. Y. P. U."

Editorial and other changes have been made in our publication business. Mr. G. R. Roberts, who for twenty years has borne the burden of the Canadian Baptist and the Book Room, retires with a financial bonus for three years. Rev. W. J. McKay, B. D. of Stratford, becomes editor, and Mr. R. D. Warren of Georgetown, a successful journalist and business man, becomes business manager, and superintendent of the Book Department.

Evangelism is to be vigorously prosecuted during the summer. The H. M. Board has engaged Rev. J. Vansickle as evangelist, and he will give his whole time to the work. The McMaster Evangelistic Band, will divide, and in two sections of ten or twelve students each, will tour the province. It is estimated that not less than a thousand conversions resulted from the winter's work of these earnest young men.

McMaster Commencement began Tuesday evening May 3 when Dr. Perry of Jarvis St. church preached the Baccalaureate sermon, in Castle Memorial Hall. His theme was the Incarnate Christ. Wednesday evening May 4, was graduating night. The orator was Dr. Rush Rhees of Rochester University. His theme was Christianity and Scholarship.

The graduating class numbered 38 of whom 4 were ladies. Degrees conferred were B. A. 21; M. A. 8; B. H. 4; Diplomas in the English Course, 4; Honorary degrees were: D. D. Rev. T. S. Johnson, London, Ont.; L. L. D. Prof. McKee, Brandon, Man.; and Prof. McCrimmon, Woodstock, Ont. Among the distinguished guests was Dr. M. MacVicar of Richmond, Va.; who was the first Chancellor of McMaster. He had the pleasure of seeing a portrait of himself unveiled.

The Alumni Association met Monday, May 2nd, at 4 p. m. The programme included strong and practical papers on "The needs of McMaster," "Reconstruction in Theology," "Wesley, Whitefield and Edwards," "Inspiration of the Scriptures," "Fatherhood of God," the last topic being discussed by Dr. Goodspeed.

The annual banquet was given this year by the third year class, and the graduates and visitors were the guests of the juniors.

OBITER.

Rev. W. J. McKay, on leaving Stratford, was generously remembered by the church and citizens among whom he has labored for twelve years. The gifts included a gold

watch and a cabinet of silver. Mr. McKay has wrought a good work in the pastorate, and now enters upon a large field as editor of the "Canadian Baptist."

The annual meeting of Jarvis St. Church, Toronto, was held recently. The membership is now over 900. The additions during the year were 97. The income was \$23,786. The missionary portion of this amount was Home, \$1,945; Foreign, \$2,524; North West, \$1,198; Grande Ligne, \$412. Orillia, Ont.

Acadia Notes.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS.

Baccalaureate Sunday this year falls somewhat earlier than usual, and will be observed May 29th. The services morning and evening will be held in College Hall, as the church no longer furnishes sufficient accommodation for the many in attendance. The Rev. Professor Goodspeed, D. D., of McMaster University, will preach the baccalaureate sermon; the evening address under the auspices of the College Y. M. C. A. will be delivered by the Rev. J. H. Jenner, M. A., of Halifax. The closing exercises of the Academy will take place on Monday evening the 30th, those of the Seminary on Tuesday evening, the 31st, those of the College on Wednesday morning June 1st. The other numerous functions of the week are detailed in the complete programme found in another column.

THE MUSICAL FESTIVAL.

This event will doubtless be reported by Principal DeWolf. One less directly connected with the affair may, however, make a passing comment. The event furnished two days of exercise at once delightful and educative. Professor Maxim has proved himself an accomplished musician, an interesting and enthusiastic worker, and a master organizer and leader. The results presented to the public from his chorus work were a delightful surprise. The orchestral work was also very creditable. The professionals who were brought from the outside for the difficult solo work, were well chosen, and their presence was not only a source of pleasure, but a great profit to the young people, who were thus able to see the art of music nobly exemplified. The event was a great success in all respects.

A WORD ABOUT BEQUESTS.

It is very gratifying to all the friends of our denominational work, that increasing numbers of our good people are remembering the various departments of denominational enterprise in their wills. This is surely a wise and happy disposition to make of some portion of one's accumulations after the needs of life are over for oneself. The writer has knowledge at the present time of certain friends whose wills embody bequests for the College and Seminary, and there are doubtless many others of whom he has no knowledge. It seems desirable that a word of timely information should be given on a point of present interest.

It should be understood in passing, that the Second Forward Movement is for the advantage of the Academy, Seminary, and College. The large debt upon the Seminary is to be completely cancelled by this movement; what I now call attention to, therefore, concerns bequests to the Seminary and Academy as well as those to the College.

The special point of information that I desire to give is, that a bequest coming in for the college or seminary, during the progress of the Second Forward Movement, could not be applied to the advantage of that movement, if the will under which the bequest had been made bore a date earlier than Feb. 18th, 1903, with no supplementary instructions attached. The Forward Movement is confined to the time between that date and Jan. 1st, 1908. Mr. Rockefeller will duplicate all contributions made by others between those dates, whether made to college, seminary, or Academy. A bequest made prior to Feb. 18th, 1903, though it should become available between 1903 and 1908, he would not recognize as a contribution which he had promised to duplicate. Such bequests would, of course, be promptly applied by the Board to the objects for which they were designated, but they could not serve as a basis for any claim upon Mr. Rockefeller.

It is conceivable that, with these facts in mind, some friends of the institutions might wish to modify their arrangements. That, of course is a matter for themselves. The simple method, if one desired to have his contribution serve as part of the Second Forward Movement Fund, would be to give a pledge to the Board of Governors for such or such an amount, making the pledge payable if he pleased as late as January 1st, 1908. In case then of decease prior to that date, the pledge would be a charge on the estate for the benefit of the object designated. Pledge forms are available for this purpose by writing to the undersigned.

THOS. TROTTER.

Wolfeville, May 14th.

Our whole life is but a day repeated; whence it is that old Jacob numbers his life by days; and Moses desired to be taught this point of holy arithmetic, to number not his years but his days. Those therefore that dare lose a day, are dangerously prodigal; those that dare misspend it, desperate.—Bishop Hall.