

THE EXODUS TO THE NORTH-WEST.

THE exodus to the North-West is now assuming such dimensions, and is to such a large extent from this Province, that a good many are becoming alarmed at its progress, and are beginning to fear that Ontario will suffer greatly and permanently by the drain thus made upon its population and resources. We cannot say that we at all sympathize in these fears. The eagerness to speculate in North West lands has, no doubt, with many become a perfect mania, and not a few are without doubt thereby laying up in store for themselves great disappointment and not a little pecuniary injury. But while this is beyond all reasonable question, we at the same time have not the slightest doubt about our Province being eventually benefited by the present movement of the population. Ontario is not going to be depopulated, though many for the time being are sacrificing their farms here in order to make their fortunes yonder. One part of the Dominion, however, cannot prosper without the rest feeling the beneficial influence, and of all the federated sisterhood Ontario will eventually be the greatest gainer by this opening up of the North-West.

And as in material matters, so in spiritual. Let Ontario do her duty to the people of the North-West, by sending them the Gospel, and helping them to maintain religious ordinances in their days of comparative weakness and struggle, and the blessing will come back in tenfold increased spiritual vitality and ever-growing individual comfort and religious prosperity. The undertaking is great that is being laid to the hand of all the Churches in this Canada of ours. It can, however, be overtaken if the people have only a mind to the work, and that Church which gives itself most heartily to the enterprise will in the end find itself strongest and most thoroughly equipped in all that constitutes genuine Church strength and permanent denominational prosperity.

GOSPEL WORK.

GLASGOW.

A writer in "The Outlook" says:—The work of God in the hands of Mr. Moody, and of his numerous local assistants, lay and clerical, grows in magnitude, real power, and beauty. There is less and less of man, more and more of God, every week and day. The chief human agent seems to labour less, and the Spirit of the Lord proportionately more. This is most apparent, perhaps, in the great assemblies, which in undiminished numbers meet in St. Andrew's Hall for Bible study on week-day afternoons. The lecturer does not seem to exert himself. He talks to his three thousand hearers there as quietly and easily, to all appearance, as ordinary men would do to a score or thirty sympathetic listeners in a drawing-room. Throughout last week, particularly, our friend's doctrine seemed to "drop as the rain"—his speech to "distil as the dew." The sight of strong-minded, shrewd, experienced business-men, merchants, bankers, lawyers, tradesmen, rapidly, as the hour approached, filling up the seats which had been reserved for them near the platform, listening throughout with rapt attention, and in many cases under emotion which found relief in tears, was a sight scarcely less instructive and edifying than the pointed and pathetic sentences which, under God, produced the scene.

It may be added, that Mr. Moody is always surrounded on the platform by ministers of all evangelical denominations, from the country as well as from the city, and by laymen who are influential in a social point of view, and prominent in Christian work.

The churches cannot hold the multitudes which flock to the evangelistic services in the evening. The power of the services has increased as they followed one another. Not the least pleasing feature of the work is seen in the Monday morning meetings of the city ministers of the various evangelistic denominations, which Mr. Moody convenes for the purpose of discussing matters of detail affecting the outworks. These are largely attended, and are growingly characterized by unity of spirit, brotherly kindness, and joyful charity. It is now admitted by growing numbers of judicious men, and that spontaneously, that Christian workers throughout this great field, and their many sympathizers beyond its borders, have ample reason to thank God, to take courage, and to abound in the work of hope to which "the Lord of the harvest" loudly calls them.

From San Francisco we have the following interesting items:—

A BARKEEPER UNDER CONVICTION.

A barkeeper came to one of the meetings in the Howard Presbyterian Church, and at the close, when spoken to by one of the workers, he was found to be under deep conviction. As he was standing near the door, surrounded by companions who seemed to have no sympathy with his feelings, he was asked to come forward and take a seat where he would be away from their influence. His story was that of so many California boys. Left when a child without parental care and guidance, "What could you expect of a fellow?" he said, with tears in his eyes. "I want to do better, and am willing to try." He was pointed to the Saviour, and while he and the worker were on their knees, his companions came forward and began to make sport of him. A kind word was spoken to them, and the barkeeper promised to give up his situation at once, and serve the Lord who had redeemed him. He expected a hard fight from his old associates, and for a time the fight was hard, but he stood firm. Next morning he told his employer that he could not "tend bar" any longer, as he had decided to live a different life. The result is that three of his companions have been led to accept Christ, and now the four may be seen at all the meetings with Bible and pencil in hand, eagerly taking in every word and marking down the references. They have been totally ignorant of the Bible, and they are drinking deep draughts from this "well-spring" of life.

A MOTHER'S JOY.

A young man, formerly a city official, had been led into the habit of drinking through his political friends, and, by his course, had nearly broken the heart of his widowed mother, he being her only child. She moved across the bay to Allameda, hoping to get him away from his evil associates. He began to attend the meetings, and as he did not reach his home until a late hour, his mother would sit up and anxiously wait for him, and each night she would be happily surprised to find that he came home sober. She thought best not to question him, and kept on praying that God might save him. At last, when Sunday morning came, he announced his readiness to accompany her to church; this surprised her, as he had not attended church for years. In the afternoon, he said he would go to the city, and she anxiously awaited his return. At midnight she heard his step, and again was pleased to find that he was sober. She said "You must have missed the boat, my son." "Yes, mother, but I made the grandest trip of my life." "How so, my son? Have you succeeded in finding employment?" "No, mother, but I am saved!" Thinking that he meant that he had decided not to drink any more, she said, "Well, I am glad of that." "Yes, mother, my soul is saved through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ." Ah! then the mother rejoiced indeed and she said, "O, my son, if you had brought millions and laid them at my feet, you could not have rejoiced my heart as does this news." He had accepted Christ that night in Mr. Hallenbeck's meeting, and now he is one of the most earnest workers.

A BLESSED ASSURANCE.

A very interesting case is that of a prominent, wealthy business man, who for years had been a Church member, but did not know that he was redeemed. While Major Whittle was speaking one evening, the truth flashed upon him, and he was like a new man, and indeed he has been a new man ever since. He commenced at once to ask every Christian he met, "Do you know that you are redeemed?" and the result is that God has wonderfully used him to lead many into the truth. He employs a large number of men, and he has been the means of leading many of them to Christ.

PRESBYTERY OF SAUGEEN.—This Presbytery met in Knox Church, Mount Forest, on the 14th inst. Mr. Campbell reported that Cotswold congregation had paid all their arrears to their late pastor, Rev. C. Cameron. The members present reported ancient contributions to the different schemes of the Church so far as taken up. Mr. Fraser reported that the deputation had visited North Luther; they found the people anxious for a settled pastor, and promised \$550 towards payment of salary. Messrs. Strain, Nicol, Chisholm and Morrison were appointed to give a Sabbath to the field before the 1st of May. Mr.

Fraser was appointed to moderate in a call in said congregation as soon as the people are prepared. Dr. Cochrane was nominated as Moderator of the next General Assembly. The following commissioners were appointed to the General Assembly, viz. by rotation, Messrs. McMillan and Aull, by ballot, Messrs. Campbell, McLeod and Chisholm, ministers; Messrs. P. McGregor, James Scott, T. Bowie, D. McMillan and J. McBeath, elders. The Presbytery adjourned to meet in Knox Church, Harrison, on the 18th April, at 10 o'clock, to consider reports on the state of religion, Sabbath schools and temperance. S. YOUNG, *clerk*.

PRESBYTERY OF STRATFORD.—This court met on the 14th and 15th inst., seventeen ministers and eleven elders present. Intimation was received from the Presbytery of Toronto of application to be made for the reception of Mr. Wm. Henry Jamieson, M.A., a minister of the Methodist Church. It was agreed to apply for \$3 a Sabbath for Trowbridge during the summer. Messrs. Stewart and Wright were appointed to prepare for Synod a report on Temperance, from answers to be sent to Mr. Wright without delay. Sessions were instructed to forward returns at once to Messrs. Boyd and Stewart respectively on the State of Religion and on Sabbath Schools. It was moved by Mr. Fotheringham, seconded by Mr. McPherson, and agreed to, "That Sessions be instructed to report at next meeting what action has been taken in their respective congregations, in compliance with the recommendations on the State of Religion, as sanctioned by General Assembly." Reports on Missionary meetings were received. A Committee on Statistics was appointed, to report at next meeting. Dr. Cochrane was nominated, on motion of Mr. Wright, as Moderator of next General Assembly. The Session of North Easthope was authorized to see to the election of elders at Tavistock. Mr. Waits accepted the call of Chatham, N. B., and he was placed under the Presbytery of Miramichi. Mr. Fotheringham was appointed Moderator *ad interim* of the Session of St. Andrew's, Stratford, and to declare the vacancy on April 2nd. The congregation got leave to supply its own pulpit for six Sabbaths. The Presbytery recorded its regret at the separation of Mr. Waits, and its prayers for his welfare, and at the same time its sympathy with the congregation at the loss of a pastor so earnest and successful. A proposal from the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was adopted, viz. to recommend the formation of such societies in the congregations of the bounds. According to notice given, it was moved by Mr. Fotheringham, seconded by Mr. McAlpine, "That the General Assembly be overtured in the terms following: Whereas it is highly important that the Church have immediate control of the education of its future ministers. Whereas the appointment and removal of theological professors in Queen's College is in the power of a self-elected Board, and these professors are not under the control of the Church. Whereas the salaries of these Professors are, in part, provided by the Church. Whereas the late General Assembly instituted a common fund for the three colleges at Toronto, Kingston, and Montreal: And whereas many object to supporting professors over whom the Church does not exercise immediate control, and thus the common college fund is liable to suffer: It is therefore humbly overtured to the venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, to take such action as may be necessary to bring the various theological colleges of the Church into uniform relations thereto." While the object of the overture was approved by all who gave expression to their minds on the subject, it was thought by a majority that the present time was inopportune, and it was accordingly laid on the table in the meantime. Messrs. Stewart, McAlpine and Kay were by rotation, and Messrs. Hamilton and Wright by ballot, appointed commissioners to General Assembly; and also by ballot, Messrs. James Hamilton, John W. Chalmers, Thomas McPherson, Charles Baird, and George Manser, elders. There was presented from Blanchard, a petition from persons formerly connected with Biddulph congregation, for the erection of a separate congregation, and one from Biddulph for transference to London Presbytery and connection with Lucan. It was decided to see to the settlement of arrears due their former minister before taking up these petitions, and the Committee on Arrears was instructed to take action for this end.