

not often that a whole family are thus preachers.

The father died in peace, and in the faith of the gospel. Like as England has toward Scotland, so the United States, as the larger and richer country, has strong gravitating influence on Canada; and all the sons except the youngest, Rev. A. F. McGregor, of Woodstock, are in the United States. Mr. McGregor's picture is No. "54" in the plate in our January number—"The Union of 1868," and is (though small) a very good likeness.

W. W. S.

TRAINING SCHOOLS.

Since what (for want of a better word) is called "lay" Christian work has so come to the front in these recent years, there has sprung up also a class of Schools more or less elaborated in their organization, to train men and women for this work. The Chautauqua idea, though "literary," as well as directly Christian, was partly the outcome and partly the cause of this movement. Then came Moody's Training-schools and classes at Chicago and at Northfield; and many other efforts and adaptations. One of the best is at Springfield, Mass., J. L. Dixon, Secretary. Secretaries for the Y.M.C.A. are needed; City-missionaries, Pastors' assistants, S. S. Superintendents, Lay preachers, Missionaries, are all needed; and this School trains students for these positions.

Another has been begun in Toronto; of which Rev. Elmore Harris is Principal, and Mr. William Fergusson, of 58 Grenville St., Toronto, Secretary. The Board of Management is composed of ministers and members of different churches, and it is founded on unsectarian principles. How far Biblical interpretation can be carried on without theological bias we don't know; but the attempt to do so will—if a Christian spirit continues to prevail among teachers and pupils—tend to unity of Christian thought and effort; and perhaps be an object-lesson for the incredulous.

With the idea that these institutions will cheapen the way to the ministry, and interfere with the theological colleges, we have not the least sympathy. The theological colleges must show their faith by their works. And there is nothing to hinder but much to induce every theological college to have one or more such schools under its

wing; whose students, desirous of longer-continued study, could go up for examination to the college, and be equally eligible with others for degrees, on exhibiting the same scholarship.

The chief design of these excellent Training-schools is to furnish consecrated men and women as S. S. workers, pastors' assistants, and as city, home, and foreign missionaries. In the Toronto institution, the classes are for the present held in the Walmar Road Baptist Church. Evening classes, twice a week, are also held for the benefit of those who cannot attend further—specially adapted to S. S. teachers.

Our Contributors.

PRESIDENT FINNEY.

BY WM. M. BARBOUR, D.D.

SECOND PAPER.

That seemed to us *then*, as it seems to us still a very happy incident, even if we do not dignify it with the graver name of a "providence," that on clearing the London docks and gliding down the Thames for New York, the good ship *Southampton* should have on board one we greatly desired to meet in the new world, the President of the College towards which our sails were set on embarking for the West. Without the remotest thought, on our part, of such a favoring incident, here was put within our reach such a means of information concerning Oberlin and the ways of the West as was devoutly to be wished for, and gladly to be made available.

After repeated opportunities of witnessing Mr. Finney's swaying power over congregations filling the Broadway Tabernacle in New York, as they filled Whitfield's Tabernacle in London, by his friendly counsel, in a few months we found ourselves in the West, under his wise presidential superintendence in the College and his faithful pastoral instruction in the church of the Oberlin colony, then in its comparative youth, in the woods of Ohio.

Trained for the law, and in practice at the bar, when converted to Christ, it is a striking tribute to Mr. Finney's ability that it is no easy matter for those under him for years to say whether he is