

## BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

CANADIAN METHODIST MAGAZINE for October contains a great many interesting and valuable papers. Among the rest, one by the Rev. Principal Grant on "Methodist Mission work in the North-West," which many who are not Methodists will read with deep interest and profit.

ROSE-BELFORD'S CANADIAN MONTHLY. (Toronto: Rose-Belford Publishing Co.)—Mr. J. R. Eckart and Mr. Samuel Thompson of Toronto, Miss Machar of Kingston, and Sir Francis Hincks, are among the contributors to the October number of the Canadian Monthly.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE. (Boston: Littell & Co.)—The last two numbers of the "Living Age" for September and the first for October contain articles from the "Quarterly," the "Fortnightly" and "Contemporary" Reviews, "Blackwood's," "Fraser's" and "Macmillan's" Magazines, "The Spectator," "The Athenæum," "Public Opinion," etc. A new volume begins with October.

BABY RUE.—"No Name" Series. (Boston: Roberts Brothers; Toronto: Willing & Williamson.)—The "No Name" series of stories has established for itself a reputation as undoubted as it is deserved. Some of them have made quite a sensation on the other side, and it is said there has been as much guessing over the authorship of the different volumes as there was over the identity of the author of "Waverley." No such stir has been raised in Canada, though at the same time even here they have had many interested and delighted readers. "Baby Rue" will not take a first place in the series for either the interest of the mere story or the power and felicity in the description and development of character. All who begin, however, will, we think, find themselves constrained to go on to the end, and will have to acknowledge that the story is good, and the inevitable "moral" on the right side, and attractively stated as well as powerfully pressed.

## AN APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE.

MR. EDITOR,—I desire, through the medium of your columns, to bring the case of our church at Emsdale, in this district, before your readers. Some four years ago the members of our church had commenced the erection of a church in which to worship. This was all the more necessary, as at the time of its erection there was no school-house in the locality in which worship might be held. They received at the time a little assistance from friends outside. This amount, together with their own efforts, left them still in debt, however, which they have succeeded only partially in wiping off. There is a balance still of \$45, and for which the creditor threatens to sell the building if it be not speedily settled. The friends on the ground have exhausted every means to secure the money, and with the distress caused by the fires with which our district has been scourged, they see no way of getting out of the difficulty. They have appealed to me for aid, and I in return brought their case before our Presbytery on Tuesday last, and obtained from them permission to make this statement through your columns. The case is a deserving one, and as we have as yet no Church Extension Fund, we are shut up to this method of seeking assistance. Should the building be sold, it will be for much less than it has already cost, and there are not wanting those who are eager to buy for church purposes. Any moneys sent to me will be acknowledged in due time, with your permission, through your columns, and will be applied to the object specified.

A. FINDLAY,  
Supt. Missions, Muskoka.

Bracebridge, Oct. 1st, 1881.

## CHURCH AT BANG-KAH, FORMOSA.

MR. EDITOR,—For several years before leaving Formosa I was impressed with the necessity of having a church building erected in Bang-Kah, a city of about 60,000 inhabitants, and the most important in Northern Formosa. There the Chinese Government have lately built very large examination halls, where as many as 3,000 students aspiring to become Mandarins may be examined in one year. In 1876 I succeeded in the face of bitter opposition in opening a place for worship in the city, which, however, was

pulled down by the mob. But by the grace and power of the Lord of Hosts there is a congregation there who meet for worship in a small rented building. The city is so situated that the converts of twelve churches around could conveniently meet in it for conference on special and important occasions. For these reasons I feel extremely desirous as soon as we return to erect in this place a more commodious church building, costing about \$1,000. Rev. Mr. Junor, my worthy colleague, most heartily agreed with the suggestion before I left the island. I brought the matter before the Formosa Mission Committee, and while they are in full sympathy with the object and willing to contribute the amount needed if absolutely necessary, yet they, as well as myself, would be delighted if the sum could be raised without drawing on the ordinary funds. Already that noble friend of the Mission, Mrs. Mackay, of Windsor, who gave us a hospital at Tamsui, has offered \$500 towards this building at Bang-Kah without asking her for a cent. Now, is there any individual or congregation in the Church in Canada who will give, say \$500 more, before I leave this land in a few weeks, or indicate a willingness to give at an early date, and thus greatly assist in establishing the Lord's work in Northern Formosa. At present I regard such a church as I have indicated, in Bang-Kah, only second in importance to the College, which, through the liberality of dear friends in Oxford, will (D.V.) be erected at Tamsui, Northern Formosa, next year. My address for two weeks will be Woodstock.

Woodstock, Sept. 30th, 1881.

G. L. MCKAY.

## DR. MCKAY'S FAREWELL MEETING.

MR. EDITOR,—You will confer a favour on the cause with which the Rev. Dr. McKay is so prominently associated by publishing the following particulars regarding the farewell meeting to be held in Woodstock, on the evening of Tuesday, the 11th inst.

We have assumed the whole responsibility of the arrangements, which are as follows. To give a general and catholic character to the meeting, we have applied for the use of the Canada Methodist Church, the largest in town, which has been kindly granted. We have requested the esteemed rector of St. Paul's Church, the Rev. J. J. Hill, to preside as chairman, which he has kindly consented to do. As a large number of ministers are expected to attend, and as it is desirable that as many as possible should take part in the meeting, speeches will be very brief, not exceeding five minutes, except in the case of Dr. McKay himself and the convener of the Foreign Mission Committee, Rev. Prof. McLaren, of Knox College. We expect to see a very large meeting, composed of the Christian people and friends of foreign missions belonging to all the churches in town, and throughout the county as well. We are sanguine that the meeting will, in every respect, be one worthy of the missionary in whose honour it is to be held and the cause he represents, and that it will prove a blessing to all the churches taking part in it.

In addition to the sums already acknowledged, the following have been received, viz.: Innerkip, per Mr. McLean, \$4; a Friend, Princeton, \$21; ditto, Burgessville, \$2; McKillop congregation, per A. McKay, \$45.25; a Friend, Lachine, \$5; Knox Church, Harrison, per J. Henderson, \$57.21; Chalmers Church, Woodstock, \$287.79; a Friend, Auburn, \$5. The \$4,000 from the county of Oxford is not yet fully made up, but we hope the collection at the farewell meeting, together with sums expected from places not yet heard from, will complete the whole amount, and that we may be able to announce this desirable result at the close of the meeting.

W. T. McMULLEN,  
Woodstock, Oct. 3rd, 1881. W. A. MCKAY.

PRESBYTERY OF PETERBORO'.—This Presbytery met at Port Hope, on the 19th September. Mr. Torrance gave the following notice of motion for consideration at next regular meeting: "That the minutes of each sederunt be read and confirmed at the opening of the next following sederunt." Reports were heard from the delegate who had been appointed at last meeting to visit the different mission stations and supplemented congregations. Said reports were handed over to the Presbytery's Home Mission Committee for their consideration. A petition from Hastings was read, asking that steps might be taken with a view to the separation of that station from

Norwood. Messrs. Sutherland and Terrance, ministers, with Messrs. Carnegie and Alex. Douglas, elders, were appointed a deputation to visit Hastings and confer with the petitioners on the matter contained in the memorial. Upon motion of Mr. Cleland, of which he had given previous notice, it was agreed to discontinue the practice of putting upon our records complimentary minutes in reference to ministers leaving our bounds. Mr. Torrance was appointed to co-operate with the Rev. R. H. Warden, of Montreal, in the bringing of the claims of the College Fund before the congregations and stations within the bounds. The following appointments were made in connection with the other schemes of the Church: Col. Haultain, to superintend French Evangelization; Rev. F. R. Beattie, to take charge of Home Missions; Rev. R. J. Beattie, Foreign Missions; Rev. D. Cameron, Ag'd Ministers' Fund; and Rev. W. C. Windell, Assembly Fund. The Home Mission Committee were invested with Presbyterial powers to prepare a report for presentation to the Assembly's Committee at Toronto in October.

PRESBYTERY OF QUEBEC.—A meeting of this Church Court was held in St. Andrew's Church, Sherbrooke, on the 20th ult. The chief points of public interest, were the examination and licensing of Messrs. McKibbin and Henry, students; and a conference, which was held in the evening. The trial discourses of Messrs. McKibbin and Henry were heard, when, after a thorough examination of the same, a committee was appointed to question them in Systematic Theology and Church History. This examination was conducted in open court. At its close the Presbytery, on motion, resolved to proceed and license these gentlemen. At the request of the Moderator, Dr. Mathews of Quebec conducted these services. The conference in the evening was of more than ordinary interest. The subject under discussion was "Sabbath Observance." Rev. Mr. Dewey, of Richmond, was called to the chair, and opened the meeting with a short service. The question was introduced by Rev. J. B. McLeod, of Kingsbury, who read a very able and valuable paper. Several members of the Presbytery spoke briefly. A short address by Rev. Mr. Lindsay, a former pastor of the congregation, was listened to with deep interest. His venerable appearance and honest words will not be soon forgotten. It would be too long to give in detail the arguments used to shew why the Sabbath should be observed as directed in the fourth commandment. From the whole discussion it was evident that the Presbytery felt the importance of a right and proper observance of the day. Many plain and wholesome words were spoken, and the hope is indulged that these will bear good fruit in the lives of those who listened to them. It was announced that the next meeting would be held in Morrin College, Quebec, on the first Wednesday of November, at ten a.m., and the benediction was then pronounced.

NOR a few in Canada will hear with regret of the death of Rev. Peter Davidson, D.D., of Edinburgh, who, for the long period of fifty years, has been an able and faithful minister in the United Presbyterian Church. He was in the 78th year of his age.

THE letter of a "Layman" was too long, and the writer's name was not given. For these reasons, and not from any dislike to having both sides of the subject fully and freely discussed, we have not printed it. We are quite ready to acknowledge that there are two sides in the case, and that the blame attachable to the frequent removal of ministers or to the uneasy desire for change in the pastoral relation does not always lie exclusively or even chiefly with the people. Our correspondent "Laity" did not say that such was the case. He merely asserted what can scarcely be reasonably called in question, that sometimes a few restless and officious persons, who like to have the pre-eminence, make the lives of many a faithful and efficient pastor miserable by trying to make him believe that he has outlived his usefulness, and that the best thing for all parties which he can do is to leave as quietly and as speedily as he can; when all the time the great majority of the people are perfectly satisfied and wish nothing less than that the minister should go. This is all perfectly compatible with its sometimes being the case that a minister becomes idle and remiss in the discharge of his duties, or is found to be incompetent, and ought therefore to give place to another. In this case, however, also, our Presbyterianism has provided a proper way in which such a desired change is to be accomplished, and that way is through the Presbytery.