

attractive. The chief article of this number is an exposition of Cave's Inspiration of the Old Testament, a book of which the writer speaks most favourably. Other articles are "The Value of Egyptological Study," by Dr. Wendel, and a study of the words "Priest," "Prophet" and "Sacrifice" in the New Testament, from that fine New Testament scholar, recently deceased, Dr. Frederic Gardiner. Prof. Beecher continues his discussion of the Postexilic History of Israel and Dr. Harper presents four Bible Studies on 2 Samuel and the times of David and Solomon. A visit to Carthage, named in Biblical history, is narrated by Robert Francis Harper. [C. Venton Patterson Pub. Co., New York. Price \$1.50 a year.]

THE ROYAL ACADEMICIAN: W. P. Frith, whose charming reminiscences have been so widely quoted, has written two fascinating articles for the *Youth's Companion* on his experiences with "Youthful Models," including Italian boot-blacks, cockney Arabs, and children of the royal family.

Correspondence.

EDUCATIONAL DEMANDS IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

[To the Editor of the Presbyterian Review.]

SIR,—A movement of more than ordinary significance has recently taken place in our city. Over six thousand men and lads above sixteen years old have suddenly made the demand to receive instruction in the elementary branches of education in night schools. It is believed that many more share in the same desire, and that were women to be counted, the number would probably reach twelve or thirteen thousand. These are hard-working people during ten hours per day, but so keen is their desire for knowledge that they are willing to devote two additional hours each night to the acquisition of it. The wish of many is to learn to read and write, and of others to gain some acquaintance with the English or French language. I have mingled with them in arranging their classes, and can therefore testify to their earnestness and respectability. And if even two-thirds of them should eventually withdraw, owing to difficulties which beginners at the age of from twenty to forty must experience, their conduct has already evinced a wide-spread desire for education.

The forces that have given rise to this movement are not of yesterday—they have been silently working for years. Truth disseminated among the people has not been lost. The present turbid state of the political and ecclesiastical atmosphere, and the methods followed by some in money-making, have an intimate connection with this stir among the masses. Merchants, manufacturers and capitalists have for years been putting their heads and their resources together to advance their own interests, and workmen are now following their example. They have organized as Knights of Labour, etc. They conclude that if "combinations" are good and lawful for one class, they should be for another. In their meetings they discuss all sorts of questions touching Church and State, and they appear to have discovered that their worst enemy—the one which makes them an easy prey to unscrupulous demagogues and unjust masters—is ignorance, and they have resolved to attack and remove the evil. We bid them God-speed in this effort. We regard it as the beginning of what may lead to much greater things. This thirst for knowledge is a most hopeful social and national omen. The spirit of freedom and progress is abroad, and cannot be arrested and imprisoned. It grows stronger daily, and will assert itself all the more in the face of attempts to keep people under conditions of medieval civilization rather than those which belong to the nineteenth century. The feeling which expresses itself so forcibly in this city pervades many portions of the Province. There is a demand for better schools, and these open to all classes. It is certain that were funds available to pay them, hundreds of teachers might be employed in elementary free schools with the utmost profit to the best interests of the country. Parents who suffer grievous disadvantages through lack of education seem determined that their children shall not do so. They wish them to climb up, as the father of seven children expressed it to me not long ago, to the position occupied by their more highly favoured fellow-citizens. The children themselves are equally alive to the importance of this matter, and are eagerly pressing for admission into efficiently conducted schools, regardless of race and creed distinctions. This is impressively observable in connection with the present phenomenal uprising in our city, and also with regard to Mission Schools, in which the truths of the Gospel and the moral lessons of Christ and his Apostles hold a prominent place.

Two weeks ago I visited the old and well-known mission institutes at Pointe-aux-Trembles, so ably managed by the Rev. J. Bourgois and his staff. I have watched the progress of these schools for the last twenty eight years, and never have I seen them in such a thoroughly prosperous condition. They are full to repletion, and many, especially girls, have been refused admission for want of room. The building occupied by the boys is admirably equipped and leaves little or nothing to be desired. The girls' building is quite inadequate and should be double its present size and otherwise improved. The pupils in both schools, numbering one hundred and forty, are exceptionally intelligent and earnest in the prosecution of their studies. Having spent the day in examining and hearing classes, I can speak with confidence in this respect. The high average of ability and attainments among them is due to the special care exercised in receiving pupils, and to the fact that many are in attendance for the second and third session. Not a few are preparing to be missionaries and teachers, while some will enter other professions, and many will become agriculturists and mechanics, or follow mercantile pursuits. Their influence for good in future can hardly be over-estimated. They

will enter their different spheres of usefulness as enlightened citizens possessed of a sound education, and actuated, as a class, by the principles of the Gospel. This is what is needed to solve the difficulties which beset the government and true development of our common country. Real progress must be along these lines. I wish all the friends of this Mission and those who hesitate about supporting it, could have looked into the faces of the pupils as I saw them the other day assembled in their chapel, so bright and promising, and so prompt and accurate in answering questions. It would surely move their hearts to pray, and to give for the advancement of an undertaking to which the Lord has so manifestly set the seal of His approval. And let it be remembered that these are not our only schools. We have thirty-two others of similar aim, equally deserving of generous support.

I write this much in the hope that, as the season for the allocation of missionary funds is at hand, the matter referred to may receive from ministers, Sunday schools, and congregations the attention it merits.

Yours, etc.,
D. H. MACVICAR.
PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE, MONTREAL,
November 30, 1899.

Church News.

POINTE-AUX-TREMBLES SCHOOLS.

(CIRCULAR LETTER.)

To the Friends and Supporters of the Pointe-aux-Trembles Mission Schools.

THE increasing interest manifested in our schools all over the country is certainly most encouraging to us, and indicates that the Christians of this land are now beginning to realize that we are engaged here in the work that God specially places before the people of Canada, the work which imposes itself naturally upon us, the mission to which we could shut neither our eyes nor our hearts. With full confidence in your sympathy and in your liberality, we have the pleasure of drawing your attention now to the work of the present session.

Never before have our schools presented a better and more lively appearance, with their crowd of healthy and intelligent boys and girls, all wide-awake and eager to learn and to make progress. One hundred and thirty-six have already gathered around us, and we expect at least ten more in a few days. About one-half of them belong to families who still adhere to the Church of Rome. The others are sent to us by converted parents who have rejected the errors of Popery, and who by families half French and half English, who are so situated that their children would gradually become Roman Catholics if our schools were not open to them.

The number of those who were unable to read when they came this fall is much smaller than usual. In the first class there are forty pupils; in the second class thirty; in the third thirty-two, and in the fourth four.

Had the girls' school been enlarged during the past summer, as we expected, we would have had fifty more pupils, for very many more than this number have been refused for lack of accommodation; but we are confident that this is the last time that we are obliged to push back into the torrent of error and misery those young souls who cry for light and liberty. During the past summer four of our young men have been employed as colporteurs, and some of them have succeeded beyond all expectation. Two others have been engaged in the service of the Bible Society, and several of our pupils have been employed as teachers of Mission schools in country districts. Nineteen of our former scholars are now pursuing their studies in the Theological College in Montreal, with the ministry in view. Eleven others who were with us only a few months ago are now studying medicine, and many others do honour to our school by their success and their good influence.

Nothing is more encouraging than the interest manifested by our pupils in the prosperity of our school, and their great desire to help us in spreading the truth. During last summer one of them sent \$5.00; another, \$12.00; and another, \$20.00, for our Mission work, and we have received many smaller amounts.

The blessed results of our work, in the spreading of a spirit of inquiry and a deep desire for a sound education, fill our hearts with thankfulness to God, and with confidence in the triumph of the Gospel in the Province of Quebec.

We know that the enemies of the truth are numerous and powerful, that the difficulties of the work are great, and that we are weak, but we feel that we do not stand alone: that a host of friends are lifting up their hands towards heaven while we are equipping our young soldiers for the battle, and that the great Captain is Himself fighting on our behalf.

May God bless the present session for His glory and for the encouragement of all those who desire to see His kingdom come.

J. BOURGOIS,
Principal.
POINTE-AUX-TREMBLES, QUE.,
November, 1899.

P.S.—Contributions and scholarships should be forwarded to Rev. Dr. R. H. Warder, 108 St. James Street, Montreal.

TORONTO PRESBYTERIAN TEACHERS' UNION.

The first meeting of this new Society was held in Knox church, on Thursday evening last.

A Constitution was adopted, setting forth its objects:—"By mutual study, consultation, prayer, and co-operation, to render this department of the Church's work more efficient as a means of saving souls and advancing the Redeemer's kingdom and glory." Among the methods for accomplishing this object are the instituting a Reference Library for teachers; the appointing a committee to select suitable books for Sunday-school libraries; and the publication of a catalogue thereof; the co-operation with congregations in the establishing of new schools; in the finding of workers; and otherwise.

An address was given by the Rev. R. P. McKay, M.A., of Parkdale, on "Attention, and how it may be secured," and judging from the way it was received,

the reverend gentleman had thoroughly learned the lesson he ably impressed on his audience.

A nominating committee was appointed to report at next meeting, to be held in the same place, on 10th January, 1899.

REV. C. J. CAMERON, of Kingston, has been called to Cannington.

THIRTY are now eighty-three students in attendance upon lectures at the Presbyterian College, Montreal.

REV. W. J. DRY, pastor of Erskine church, Hamilton, has received a unanimous call to St. Paul's, Simcoe.

THE late Mr. R. A. McFarlane, of Almonte, left a bequest of \$500 to the Mission Band of St. John's church.

DR. COCHRANE has received £150 sterling from the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, in aid of the Home Mission Fund.

At a meeting of St. Andrew's congregation Kingston it was decided to draw lots for pews, subscribers to the new church-building fund having first choice. Sitings have been placed at \$3 each.

REV. J. MCD. DUNCAN has accepted the call to Beeton and Tottenham, and will be ordained and inducted on Dec. 10th; Mr. Burnett, of Alliston, to preside, Mr. Carswell, Bond Head, to address the people, and Rev. Wm. Fraser D.D., Barrie, the minister.

FROM a paragraph in a recent issue of THE REVIEW it might have been inferred that the pulpit of Knox church, Seaforth, is vacant. That supposition would be baseless. That fine congregation is not vacant, nor have we heard that the esteemed pastor, Rev. A. D. McDonald, who has ministered to it for over ten years with great acceptance, is looking for a call elsewhere. Long may the present happy settlement remain undisturbed.

AT a meeting of St. Andrew's congregation, Peterborough, on the 22nd November, the following resolution was, after debate, adopted:—"That this meeting having heard the reply of the Presbytery of Peterborough to the resolution passed at a congregational meeting held on 23rd July last, and having further considered the said resolution, and that statements (as recorded in the said meeting), which induced those present at that meeting to assent thereto, this meeting hereby orders the said resolution and the record leading up thereto to be deleted from the minutes of said meeting for the following reasons, viz:—1st. Because the financial circumstances of the congregation do not justify the statement that it is no longer able to pay a stipend of \$1,200; 2nd. Because, in passing such a resolution, this congregation undertook to deal absolutely with a matter not within the sole control of a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Canada; 3rd. Because said meeting was not called to determine the case of our not being able to meet our current expenses as they become due, and also to see in what way we can equalize our revenue and expenditure—in accordance with the laws of our Church and the usual practice of this congregation."

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