

Church News.

HOME MISSION WORK IN PARRY SOUND AND ALGOMA.

WHETHER known to many readers of THE REVIEW or not, it is nevertheless true that here, in this District of Parry Sound and Algoma, is as wide and important a mission field as any part of our country contains, or our H.M. Committee has under its fostering care. The country is now and just in course of being settled, and, considering its wealth of soil and timber, its beautiful landscape and genial, invigorating climate, it is only a wonder that it is not attracting to it more of Canada's young bone and sinew and vigorous enterprise than it has done. A great deal of the material of which a great and prosperous community is made, it is true, is already here; but the country will stand a great deal more, and no part of the country invites or needs it more. However, it is not my purpose in this letter to "boom the country," which I would indeed feel inclined to do, and may do it at another time; but to report for your columns something of the prosperous mission work that is in progress here.

Already, such has been the alertness of the Presbytery of Barrie, under whose outstretched pinions this whole region is nourished, and the energetic action of its very efficient Superintendent of Missions, the Rev. Alan Findlay, A.M., of Barrie, that the whole region is occupied by mission stations and organized congregations, and just as rapidly as new settlements are formed, and a desire or a possibility for it is found, the Presbyterian banner is planted there. I have said "the Presbyterian banner." Well, that is true, but I must put it in a better and truer light—it is the Gospel banner planted by Presbyterian hands. That means something, and to our hearts very much—the Gospel—the glorious Gospel of the blessed God—for the salvation of the perishing souls of men—that first and foremost as the great object of view, but it is as Presbyterians, and by such that the work is done. And we think that it is an object worthy of our labour, our offerings, and our prayers, to plant the blood-dyed banner of Immanuel over all our land with its gorgeous fringe of blue—the "true blue"—the blue of divine truth—a tinge caught from the Sea of Galilee and the deep blue of the Syrian sky, and kept unfaded amid Alpine valleys and solitudes, and amid the sequestered glens and purple heather of Scotland. This is the banner it is aimed to plant in all these stations, and good work is in progress in the hope and with the prayer that this "Lake-land" of Canada will become spiritually what it is by the rich beauties and bounties of nature—truly a delightful land.

It was the writer's privilege during the past week to be in company with the Superintendent of Missions, attending some missionary meetings in a number of the neighbouring stations. These have been very interesting, satisfactory and profitable, showing a good degree of interest taken in missions—that the missionary is taking root here. Evidently it is true, as Mr. Findlay reports, there is a deepening current of spiritual life developing, and a growing interest in missions, and in giving to the Lord, and many are coming to the light on this matter and are adopting the divine rule, and give, at least, the one-tenth of their income to the Lord. Some beautiful instances Mr. F. reports, out of the numerous cases coming under his notice. One is that of a devoted Christian woman, not rich by any means, a member in one of the stations north of this, who put into his hand a ten-dollar gold piece, saying, "My former subscription has been five dollars, but I feel that this year the Lord hath blessed me and I want to give Him that." How beautiful the grateful recognition of the Lord's goodness and acknowledgment of His claim, and this to be given in gold! Not that the legal value of a ragged bank-bill is the same, or an equivalent in silver might have been given; but the gold had come into her hand, and as the Lord required His people of old to give "a lamb without blemish," and the offering of "the shekel of the Sanctuary" was in gold, and the term "gold" is used in Scripture as expressive of greatest value—the very best, so this good woman wished to give not only the amount in value, but in the very best form and substance. Another case was related, showing how a heart touched and filled with the love of the Saviour, loves to give to Him. It was that of a young lady teacher—in receipt of a salary of only \$375 a year—giving as her subscription to her pastor's salary forty dollars a year, and her yearly subscription to the Schemes of the Church thirty dollars—in all an annual giving to the Lord's work, out of her small income, the sum of seventy dollars, or nearly one-fifth of all. Truly, where there is love in the heart—a willing heart—giving is easy—it is delightful. It is the words ringing in the ear and in the heart, "My life I gave for thee; what hast thou given for me?" To which comes the quick, hearty response of living service—

"Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee!"

But I must close, for with such matter my pen runs on like "the pen of a ready writer." Truly, here is a wide and important mission field and the Lord of the harvest and of the flock is manifestly moving here to extend and build up His kingdom. He has raised up and called to the charge of it a man singularly well qualified for the important work of supervising the whole field, who is wholly devoted to the work, and with untiring energy is pushing it forward into every hamlet, and I had almost said, like the roots of many of the trees here, into the very crannies of the rocks. With such a wise, loving and unwearying spirit at the head, and the earnest missionaries that are at the different parts, there is every promise of good work being done with good results; and with Christ's Gospel bearing away and bearing fruit over this well-watered and wooded land, it will be a fair and prosperous land, a veritable "land of promise" on which the eye of the Lord doth rest, and Muskoka and Parry Sound, with "the highland lochs" that adorn the land as the stars the sky, should not be anywise behind any part of this loved Canada—"My own, my native land!"—the gem of all lands.

J. L. R.

SUNDAY, Nov. 18, 1889.

FOREIGN MISSION COMMITTEE (W.D.)

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE.

THE Executive of the Foreign Mission Committee met in Toronto on the 12th inst.

THE LATE MRS. MACMURCHY.

Besides other things, they considered and approved of the following resolution in regard to the death of Mrs. MacMurphy, late Foreign Secretary of the W.F.M.S., which had been prepared by the sub-committee appointed for that purpose at a previous meeting of the Committee.

"The Committee, with profound sorrow, record the death of Mrs. Marjory Jardine MacMurphy, suddenly summoned to be with the Lord, on August 5th, at Youghall, New Brunswick.

"She was most abundant in her labours for the Master, and discharged whatever she undertook with marked fidelity, tact and heartiness.

"She was greatly useful in her own congregation as President of the Old St. Andrew's Auxiliary to the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, and as teacher of a large and most important Bible class for young women.

"She was connected with the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society from its inception, and at the time of her death was its Foreign Secretary. In this, as in all other positions she was called to fill, she discharged her duties with characteristic efficiency. She possessed qualities rarely found in combination, which imparted singular value to her work. Possessed of clear conceptions and strong convictions regarding all things connected with her work, she always associated with these a gentle spirit and constant consideration for the views of others. She walked closely with her Lord and 'was not for Him to look her.' Death to her was 'gain,' whilst to her departure from us leaves a vacancy in connection with our work it will be hard to fill.

"The Committee beg leave to tender their heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved husband and family, and pray that the God of all consolation may comfort and help them in this their day of sorrow."

MR. WILKIE.

After conference with the Rev. John Wilkie, it was decided to request him to remain in this country during the coming winter to further carry on the important work entrusted to him by the General Assembly, of raising funds to sustain the educational work in Central India. Mr. Wilkie has already received subscriptions to the extent of about \$5,000, but he still requires an additional \$5,000. The Committee also feel that the Church's interest in Foreign Mission work, which is being aroused and extended by Mr. Wilkie's addresses to congregations, will be stimulated by his remaining a few months longer at home, and they are also desirous that he may have an opportunity of getting some rest before returning to his labours in India.

APPLICATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT.

Several applications from young ladies desiring to be sent to the Foreign Field were considered and disposed of. In some cases the applicants were too young to be at present accepted for Foreign work, and were recommended to prosecute their studies for a few years.

NOTES FROM THE FIELDS.

There were read several letters received from the different mission fields, giving satisfactory accounts of the progress of the work in the several fields of the Church. The particulars, so far as they are of public interest, have from time to time appeared in the columns of THE REVIEW.

The work among the Indians in the North-West is being energetically pushed forward by the Committee of the Synod of Manitoba and the North-West Territories, who, under the Foreign Mission Committee, are entrusted with it.

Rev. Mr. Laird, who is returning to the Crow Stand after a brief visit to Ontario, takes back with him Miss E. M. Armstrong and Miss McLean, both of Winnipeg; the former to be engaged as a teacher in the boarding school on that reserve, and the latter to help Mrs. Laird with the housekeeping and management of the children.

Mr. Alexander Skene, of Johnston, near Owen Sound, has been appointed to the charge of the File Hills boarding school. There will be associated with him as missionary the Rev. D. H. MacVicar, B.A., who has, up to the present, been working at Okanase.

Mr. and Mrs. Jones, of Round Lake, have been appointed to take charge of the school at Indian Head, and Mr. John Black, formerly teacher at the Crow Stand, has been transferred to Okanase.

The new boarding department which is to be added to the mission school at Stony Plain, near Edmonton, is nearing completion and will very soon be ready for occupation by boarders. The new building has been used as a day school since the burning of the former school building in a prairie fire last spring.

The North-West Committee at its last meeting passed by a vote of thanks to the Rev. D. G. McQueen, of Edmonton, who has been untiring in his efforts to promote the prosperity of the Stony Plain Mission, and by whose excellent management the Church is now in possession of a substantial building for a boarding school erected at an extremely moderate cost.

HOME MISSION WORK IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

REV. A. FRASER, late pastor of Orono, Whitby Presbytery, but now of Comox, B.C., in writing to a friend thus describes a Sabbath Day's duties in his new field: "I drove five miles to a school-house at 10.30 a.m., and assisted in Sabbath school. After school held short service to small mixed congregations, including dogs, baby-carriages, tavern keeper and his wife, a man with two wives and two families—No. 1, a squaw, honest at present—a queer fellow who does not like my preaching, because he says it is too plain and simple; a prodigal Scotchman from Glasgow; a couple of hard-shell Baptists from New Brunswick, etc. They gave good attention, sang well, and cast a couple of dollars in quarters for collection into the hat. Hurry back to dinner, meeting numerous Sabbath breakers on the

way, many with rifles on their shoulders, Indians, etc. Shooting going on all round, judging from the reports you hear round you. Had large number at 2 p.m. at our regular meeting place—Central church—good attention and good collection. Changed my outer garments, as they were wet, saddle my horse, and off for a twelve mile ride through coal mines. Such roads!—mud and mire, but I am used to them. Got there after dark, attended to my horse, and went to boarding house for supper, 7 p.m.—minutes' time is thirty minutes slow—ate hurried supper, talked to a lot of miners in a back room smoking round the stove, asked them to come to preaching, etc., got held of a Jew peddler and three other men, and with a lantern we are off to school-house. All waiting for me, about fifty present, all kinds, very attentive, good singing, large majority young men, about a dozen more of them are negroes and they sing well. Visited one or two after services, attended to horse, shared half a bed with a new arrival, a miner. Woke up at 5 a.m. when whistle blew, fed horse and self, left at 7 a.m., after having talk with several. Mended road in some places on my way home. Got back about 10.30. Had to go five miles after noon on an errand of mercy to a sick person. Attended meeting of temperance society, etc."

MR. WILKIE'S WORK.

STATEMENT FROM REV. DR. WARDROPE.

As the readers of THE REVIEW are aware, the effort of Mr. Wilkie, our missionary now at home from India on furlough, to raise funds for the erection of a college at Indore, has received the fullest sanction of the General Assembly. The deliverance of the Assembly was as follows: "The General Assembly recommend to the liberality of the Church the High School and College work committed to Mr. Wilkie, and trusts that all necessary aid will be given him in his endeavours to raise funds to enable him to procure buildings requisite for the efficient carrying on of the work." This action of the Assembly has been heartily followed up by the Foreign Mission Committee in recommending the work of Mr. Wilkie to the sympathy and generosity of our people, among whom there is, we are sure, a deep and widespread interest in the welfare and success of our Mission in Central India. He should not return to India without \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars) for the proposed and urgently required buildings. But he has not yet received the half of that sum; although in many places his appeals have met with a gratifying response. It is therefore the judgment of the Executive Committee that Mr. Wilkie, instead of returning at once to his field of labour, as his heart was set on doing, should continue, till after next Assembly, his visits to congregations, many of which are expressing a strong desire to see and hear him ere his return. It is felt, moreover, by the Executive Committee that Mr. Wilkie, having been hard at work almost since his arrival among us, has not, in any adequate degree, realized the benefit which, so far as regards rest, he should have derived from his furlough. It is confidently hoped that, as a result of his remaining among us for a time, the necessary amount of money will be raised, his own health greatly benefited, and congregations in many parts of the Dominion much encouraged and animated in their efforts to promote the cause of Christ in the "regions beyond."

THOMAS WARDROPE,

Convener Foreign Mission Committee (Western Division.)
GUELPH, Nov. 20, 1889.

CARD FROM THE MODERATOR.

THE Moderator's engagements for Sunday services in the months of December and January are as follows:—Dec 1st, Smith's Falls; 8th, Toronto; 15th, Nanaimo; 22nd, Toronto; 29th, Ottawa; Jan. 5th, Kingston; 12th, Carleton Place; 19th, Kingston; 26th, Stayner.

A HANDSOME new church building will be erected in Avonmore next summer.

REV. A. HUDSON has accepted a call from Dundalk and Ventry, Presbytery of Orangeville. His induction will take place 29th inst.

SPECIAL evangelistic services are being held in Bradford congregation, the pastor, Rev. F. Smith, being assisted by Rev. Mr. Joliffe (Methodist).

The weekly cottage prayer meeting in connection with the Presbyterian congregation was held last Tuesday evening at the residence of Mr. Stewart, station master at Deseronto Junction. A special train of the B. of Q. Ry. was chartered,

and a large party went out to the service which was conducted by Rev. R. J. Craig, M.A., who also baptised an infant on the occasion. It is something unique, even in Deseronto, to see people proceeding to a prayer meeting by a special train. Verily, this is an age of progress alike in church and state.—*Deseronto Tribune*.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to THE REVIEW.—On Sabbath, 10th inst., anniversary services were held in Kintyre church. The Rev. J. A. Murray, of St. Andrew's church, London, preached morning and evening able and appropriate sermons to large audiences. On Monday evening following, after short and practical addresses by Rev. Messrs. Frances and Bristol, of Rodney, Mr. Murray delivered an appreciative audience with an hour's sketch of his travels in the Old World. His descriptions of places of historic interest were really grand and vivid. The choir aided much to enliven the proceedings of the evening with choice selections of music. Proceeds \$95.00.

ON Sabbath evening, 17th inst., Rev. W. H. W. Boyce preached in Knox church, St. Thomas, a sermon in memory of the late Rev. Dr. Archibald, a former pastor of the congregation. The sermon was founded on the words, "Oh, Death, where is thy sting?" The character of Mr. Archibald and of his life's work was briefly and touchingly referred to, the preacher devoting most of his time to bringing home to his hearers the truth that death's sting had been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord over the grave. The congregation was one of the largest the church ever held, the aisles having to be filled with chairs. The choir gallery was draped in mourning, and the anthem "Blessed are the Dead that Die in the Lord" was rendered by the choir.

THE first public debate of the session and the 6th since the society's foundation, was held by the Literary and Metaphysical Society of Knox College, in Convocation Hall, last Friday evening. Mr. W. B. McMurrich, M.A., was in the chair, and presided over an audience that completely filled the hall. The programme was opened by the Glee Club's rendering of Pissini's "In the Hour of Softened Splendor." Mr. John Crawford, B.A., the president, read his inaugural address, taking as his subject "The Relation of Culture to Religion." He maintained that true culture led to religion, and true religion expanded into culture. In the conclusion of a fine address he appealed to his hearers to cultivate both culture and religion to the best of their abilities. The quartette by Messrs. Nicol, Horne, Johnston and Conning, who rendered "The Troubadours," was so good as to call for an encore. Mr. J. A. Macdonald surpassed himself in his recitation of "A Ballad of the Fleet," by Tennyson, and was enthusiastically recalled and compelled by the applauding audience to give an encore, to which he responded by reciting "Ticonderoga." The Glee Club concluded the first part of the programme by a rendition of "Gentle Sounds are Floating." The debate was on the subject—Resolved: That church property should be exempt from taxation. Mr. P. O. Nichol, in eloquent terms with telling arguments, maintained that church property should be exempt. He was ably supported by Mr. M. P. Talling, B.A. On the opposite side Mr. A. Stevenson, B.A., strenuously upheld his case, and was assisted by Mr. James Macmillan. The debate was decided in the negative's favour.

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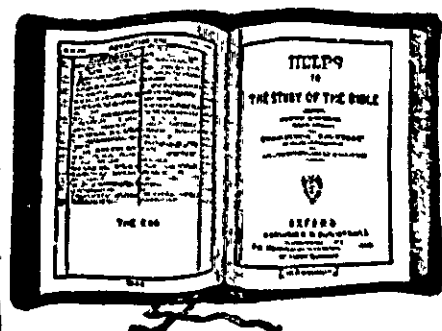
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