

Our Contributors.

POLONIUS GIVES THE YOUNG MAN SOME ADVICE ABOUT HOLIDAYS.

BY KNOXONIAN.

I am glad to know, my son, that you are about to take a holiday. Holidays are much better than *nothing*, and are much more easily taken. Rest implies work; you are a worker, and therefore you can take a rest. A man who never works cannot take a rest. He has nothing to rest from. Brain workers are in special need of rest. Three hours of hard brain work consumes the vital forces more than six of mere manual labour. Brain workers usually have more worry than any other class, and worry is a thousand times more destructive than any kind of work. You, my son, have a respectable share of brains, and therefore you have something in your upper story to rest. Some people go away to rest their brains who never gave any outward and visible sign that they have any.

Let me give you a few plain words of advice, my son, about this holiday business.

The first problem to be solved is how to get the money.

You can't take the first step without the money. Not being an editor nor a member of Parliament you have no pass. If you have no money stay at home like a man. Don't give your friends a hundred reasons why you are not going to any place this summer when there is only one reason—the want of money. If you give any reason at all tell the truth.

When you have the money the next question is where to go. That question need not trouble you long. There are so many good places in this country that a man who has not enough sense to select one should not be trusted to go from home. If you feel that you cannot trust yourself to select a place or a trip perhaps you had better stay at home with your parents.

Having decided on your trip and fixed the place at which you expect to rest for a week or two, the next thing is company. Unless you are a philosopher, or a poet, or a crank, never start on a holiday alone. As a general thing one of the best travelling companions a man can have is his mother-in-law's daughter. Some men have no relative of that kind, and sometimes the good lady and her husband cannot leave home at the same time, but that is no reason why a man should go alone. Go with a party of friends. Many a good holiday is ruined for want of somebody to speak to. At every resting place in the country you see lone, solitary men, sitting apart on the verandas trying to put in the time and convince themselves that they are having a good holiday. The other guests are in groups, chatting, laughing, singing, and having a good time generally. The solitary man sits alone and gazes silently into space. Quite frequently he is a clergyman. He would be happier at home. If you must leave home alone get acquainted with a few decent people as soon as possible, and don't sit all day on the hotel veranda or on the deck of a steamboat silently gazing into space.

Having fixed your route and joined your party—start. Yes, start and don't make as much fuss about it as if you were going in search of Sir John Franklin's remains.

Don't expect that the railway company have put on a special train, or even a special car, for your party.

Don't try to occupy four seats while other passengers stand who have paid as much fare as you have.

Don't assume that the conductor has nothing to do but answer your questions.

Don't growl and grumble because you have not the best state-room in the boat. Everybody can't have the best room.

Don't make a superhuman effort to sit beside the captain at meals. If you are much account you can afford to sit anywhere. If you are not much account forcing yourself up to the captain's end of the table won't make you anybody in particular. If the captain cares much to have you beside him he'll ask you to sit there.

Don't make a fuss because you cannot get the best room in the hotel.

Don't expect all the waiters in the hotel to devote themselves to you.

Don't pose as a distinguished man when you are among strangers.

Don't assume that a holiday must be all pleasure. A few days' fog on the Lower St. Lawrence, or a night's unrest on the cabin floor of a crowded steamer, or a three hours wait for a place at the steamer's dinner table, or a seven by nine room in the attic of a summer hotel with thousands of small but intensely active companions, or an hour's exercise in giving yourself away over the side of the vessel—all these combined, or any one of them singly, may be sufficient to convince you that a holiday is not all pleasure.

Having given you these few plain directions, my son, about your holidays, allow me to give you one word of advice about the way you should conduct yourself when you come home.

Don't bore your neighbours with a long list of the distinguished people you "met" during your travels.

Don't try to make it appear that you became quite intimate with these distinguished people. Perhaps they were not very distinguished, and possibly you and they got acquainted mainly because neither party had anything else to do. Wait until you see your new friends in their own home before you put them on your list, and don't "blow" about them even then.

FROM THE NORTH-WEST.

Many no doubt are interested in our work at Round Lake and would like to hear of progress. I am glad to be able to report progress. If I contrast the solitary tent pitched on the shore of Round Lake in June, 1884, and the splendid school buildings now occupying the same spot, I see there is progress.

Our new buildings were opened on December 30 under favourable circumstances. We are not able to give a full description of the buildings, but we may say that the main building is 24 x 54 feet, with basement and two story above. In the basement we have cellars, furnace room and school room. To the main building there is a wing 24 x 32, on the one side and the old buildings form a wing on the other side 30 x 42. On the first flat we have four bed rooms, two parlours, dining hall, girls' sewing room, store room, bath room, kitchen, pantry, wash room and two class rooms. On the upper flat we have bed rooms and dormitories, etc. The basement is stone work; the upper part frame. The buildings are comfortable, and when the thermometer was forty-five below zero, we found no trouble in keeping every part warm. We are now able to carry on our work with comfort and we hope to be able to accomplish much good.

We had the opening at a later date than we expected, being much detained in our work through sickness. A fever among the workmen stopped the work for a month. We were delighted to have with us on that occasion Hayter Reed, assistant commissioner, and Mr. McKae, inspector of schools, from Regina, also Colonel and Mrs. McDonald, and others interested in mission work among the Indians. We expected to have the Governor with us, but he was detained through sickness; also Professor Hart, of Winnipeg. All seemed to be delighted with our buildings. If you looked in at our parlour you would find a room 14 x 22, with beautiful bay window of coloured glass, looking towards the lake and river and Indian Reserve, you find that the parlour is beautifully furnished, and when told that it is the work of St. Andrew's Sabbath School, Winnipeg, you would see at once that they are interested in our work.

If you passed through our dormitories you would be surprised to see so many beautiful little beds on iron bedsteads, and if you enter our store room you might be still more surprised at seeing a good supply on reserve of quilts and blankets, sheets, pillow-slips, towels, etc. We have not forgotten the ladies of Stratford and Huron Presbyteries, and we are glad to know that they still think of us. From Harrington we are receiving a bell. Many also noticed a valuable case of medicines sent from Seaforth and a beautiful writing desk and book case also from St. Andrew's Sabbath School, Winnipeg. We can't give even in condensed form what was said on this occasion. Hayter Reed wished me to say to the Church, and especially to the Womans' Foreign Missionary Society, that they do not know how much the Government appreciated their efforts in civilizing and Christianizing the Indians of our country. The commissioner watches with interest our school, and hopes to see results which shall justify a larger support and also the establishment of other schools

on the same principle among the Indians of the North-West.

M. de Cazes said that this institution would be of more use to the country than 100 one hundred policemen.

Mr. McKae is much pleased with our plans and with results which he has already seen, and expects to see our institution grow.

Mr. McKittrick was glad to see the flag of Britannia fluttering in the storm, and hoped that by the power of the Gospel this poor degraded people may be raised so that they may no longer be as a spot upon the flag; a burden to our country and a stain upon the Church. A large number of Indians were present, and many were delighted at the privilege of having a school to which to send their children.

I fear my letter is now too long, but I must say that our school is now open and about thirty attending, ten have been taken by our brethren, the priests, but we expect others soon to take their place. We are thankful for the clothing we have received our Indians are now more comfortably clad than what they were five years ago. We are thankful for the school books sent of "Gage's series," also copy books, pens, pencils, slates, etc., also illustrated papers. We are always glad to receive boots and shoes, old or new.

Our new buildings have cost \$4,000, and are now free of debt. I trust we have spent the money given to us by the Womans' Foreign Missionary Society to good purpose, and that they may look with pleasure from time to time upon the results of their investment. You have been sowing gold and silver, may you gather souls on which are written immortality. You have been scattering the dust that glitters and becomes dim, may you gather jewels which shall sparkle forever.

REV. H. MCKAY.

LETTER FROM FORMOSA.

For more than two weeks I have been looking on at work that would rejoice the hearts not only of Canadians, but of Christians in any land to see. A large number of preachers and students are here at Tamassu studying. Preachers, old and young, from stations near and far, are out for drill. Dr. Mackay arranges subjects so that the class of students at present in Oxford College can take part and be profited with the older preachers. All form one large class.

Native pastors and preachers who have already acted as teachers ("professors") in Oxford College, preachers of sixteen years' standing, listen as eagerly, take notes and go over the work as earnestly as the latest acquisition to the college. Indeed the older preachers—having had experience—know best how to prize the privilege they are enjoying. They count every minute precious. Some of them are so engaged with work at their stations in the country that they can seldom come out to attend classes. Pastor Tan is one of these. A look at his face is enough for any one to see that he is more than thankful.

The text-book in use from day to day is the Bible itself. How can those whom Dr. Mackay has been teaching for sixteen years still continue to take lessons? Will they not go over the same ground?

Who asks the first question does not know Dr. Mackay. Who asks the second does not know the Bible. Dr. Mackay never repeats. He teaches the same truth many times, but always in a different way.

In constant study of nature, and in reading latest news from all parts, he gets a fund of illustrations apparently inexhaustible. He gathers light, as he says, from everything else, brings it to a focus and concentrates it on the pages of that one book. So powerful is the light that through scientific investigation by the help of God's Spirit Mr. Mackay is enabled to cast into that "mine of truth" that his students have many times been spell-bound. No wonder they are men of faith! Dr. Mackay often says, "they need—we all need—all we can get to confirm our faith because we worship the invisible God."

Before telling you of subjects in which I have heard students drilled, let me give you some account of how classes are conducted.

Any and every way is taken to have variety and keep students wide awake. They certainly are not only alive and wide awake, but enthusiastic. They are called for an hour either to the college classroom, assembly hall, or to Dr. Mackay's study and