

As it melts, the water penetrates the mass of rocks, and permeates the gravel, until it meets certain strata which force it to seek an outlet, and in this way is produced a "fontaine froide"—a cold fountain—from which is constantly issuing a stream of water. The only thing I have seen resembling this are the

"CIRQUES" OF THE PYRENEES,

great circles scooped out of the side of mountains in the Pyrenees, which form the termination of certain valleys. The grandest of these is that of Gavarnie, approached from Lourdes through the beautiful valleys of Argeles and Luz. The rocky barrier which forms this "Cirque" rises 3,000 feet, and is divided into three or four steps or ledges. On the summit is a large glacier, from which descend in summer many streams, several of which make an unbroken leap of 1,300 feet. The floor of the "Cirque," like that of the "Creux," consists of a chaotic mass of *debris* and blocks of granite from the precipice above—the whole being covered with dirty snow, beneath which you hear the rushing of the water which soon appears and flows on with ever-increasing volume to gladden and fertilize the valleys, in its course to the ocean.

Before leaving the "Creux," I should say that when the weather is about to change the hollow is filled with surging white vapour, which rises and falls like the steam in a boiling caldron, but does not quit the basin. This phenomenon lasts about an hour; when a gun or pistol is fired below a rattling echo is produced which resembles a volley of musketry.

Our next visit was to the defile of Lachaine to see the

RIVER REUSE ISSUE FROM A ROCK

a quantity sufficient, even in summer, to work a number of mills close by. It is supposed to flow underground through the rock from a lake about two miles distant. At certain seasons it forms a large stream at once, and, before reaching the lake of Neuchatel, it flows through picturesque gorges, its waters leaping from rock to rock. Fine views of this narrow gorge, above which the rocks and trees meet, can be had by leaving the train at Boudry station, and asking a boy to take you to the entrance to the ravine. A similar stream can be seen in the gorge of Ferrieres, coming from the rock, and large enough to work Suchard's large chocolate factory. Its course is short, being quite near to the shore of the lake. On returning to Fleurier we pass through the defile of Lachaine, so called from the Swiss having barred the passage of the Burgundians of Charles le Temeraire, by great iron chains preserved in the museum of Fleurier. Some links still remain soldered in the rock, and indicate the spot. Thus occupied,

TIME FLIES QUICKLY,

and as evening approaches, a "sweet melancholy" moves the heart, particularly when some vesper bell is heard, as the peasants say, "*pleurer le jour qui meurt*"—weeping for the dying day. We soon regain our hospitable mansion, where every thing tends to impress the heart, to cultivate the mind, and leave the happiest recollections in the future. Here the conversation turned upon

NATURE AND THE LESSONS

which it teaches, powerfully though silently, even though it is unfelt at the time. In illustration of this, Wordsworth was quoted as one who has best described this influence, because he felt it most. Few, we think, will deny that the education of natural objects, such as we have just described, tends to make men richer in true wealth, wiser and happier, because they are thereby led

To trace, in Nature's most minute design,
The signature and stamp of power divine,
Contrivance infinite, expressed with ease,
Where unassisted sight no beauty sees.

Particularly is this the case when we have been studying those children of the sun, the flowers, the bright heralds of the spring, which gladden the eye with their gracious presence and fill the heart with hopeful anticipations

Of long, bright sunny days,
Of cloudless skies and pleasant ways;
Of happy waters that sing as they flow;
Of wild flowers that on their margin grow,
Their fair forms mirrored in the stream,
Like former joys in some dear dream.

Chietre, Vaud, Suisse, August, 1886. T. H.

LET one but prove his capacity for work, and he will get plenty to do.

FROM THE FAR WEST.

NOTES BY MEMBERS OF THE PRESBYTERY OF REGINA.

EDMONTON.

There has been an epidemic of measles in the neighbourhood of Edmonton, which has been especially fatal among the Indians. Eight have died on the Stony Plain Reserve, four of whom were pupils in the mission school.

INDIAN PUPILS.

Last year it was found impossible to keep Blackfoot pupils in the industrial school at the mouth of High River, near Calgary, and some, when they did choose to remain, were unmanageable; and Père Lacombe, the principal, obtained permission from the Government to come north to the Saskatchewan, and take a sufficient number of Cree children, who were regarded as more docile, to leaven the school. Four children were taken from the Stony Plain, but this summer the father of two of them went off alone to Calgary, and brought back the four to their homes, where they are now, with the exception of one who died of measles in attendance on the Presbyterian school under the care of Mr. Anderson.

GENERAL NOTES.

The new industrial school for the training of Indian children at Long Lake, under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church, is likely to secure for principal one of the very best, most hard-worked, wisest and most loyal ministers of our whole Church, and one whom the far North-West can ill afford to spare from his present important field of labour.

The lumber is on the ground for the new churches at Fort Saskatchewan and Clover Bar; the people are prepared to do most of the work themselves, and the buildings are likely to be completed this fall.

The subscription list to the new church at Calgary has mounted to upwards of \$4,000, all of which, excepting \$400 from friends in the East, is contributed within the limits of the congregation itself. The total cost, exclusive of furnishing and fittings, will be about \$7,800.

The sacrament of the Lord's supper was dispensed for the first time last Sabbath week in Pine Creek. This congregation, including the associated stations of Sheep's Creek and High River, is making excellent progress.

STUDENT MISSIONARIES.

Fields in the far West owe a great deal in many instances to the labours of the students of our colleges. Mr. D. G. Cameron, of the Mountain Mission, has been heard from at San Francisco, in whose college he intends to study this winter. Mr. H. Fraser did excellent work this summer in the Buffalo Lake district, north of Moose Jaw. Owing to the long-continued drought in that section of country, several of his congregation were obliged to seek employment for a time in other localities. Mr. Malcolm has left Swift Current, a little town on the C. P. R., between Moose Jaw and Medicine Hat, worked this summer for the first time by our Church as a mission field. Swift Current is a divisional point on the C. P. R., with roundhouse and workshops, and figured conspicuously as a despatch-point for the north in last year's rebellion. Mr. Arthur Jones has commenced work at Donald, in the mountains. Sir Donald A. Smith, after whom the town is named, promised, with his wonted generosity, on the occasion of his passing through to the coast a few weeks ago, a donation of \$1,000 for the erection of a place of worship, which all denominations are to have the privilege of using. A social meeting of the Edmonton and associated congregations was held on the 21st ult., to bid farewell to Mr. A. S. Grant, upon his return to Montreal College. The attendance was large, and universal regret was expressed at his departure. He makes a detour on his homeward journey by way of Vancouver and San Francisco.

MR. HOWIE'S CASE.

MR. EDITOR,—It seems to me injustice is done to "Mr. X." (whoever he is) by his critics. Whether his action in sending that note to Mr. Howie was wise or not, there can be no doubt that the intention was kindly, and that should modify any severe judgments. Mr. Howie is naturally pained by this severity, because he feels that "Mr. X." did him a real kindness. Before the receipt of that note he felt that there was some unexplained difficulty in his way, but now knows definitely what that difficulty is. It has been formulated for him, and in a word is this: "The people do not want Mr. Howie, and hence he is not appointed."

I would like, if possible, to remove that difficulty, for I am convinced that it is largely imaginary on the part of both people and conveners.

Mr. Howie has both preached and lectured in my pulpit, and seldom did I see an audience more deeply impressed with the truth, and in his lectures—to his credit be it said—he never forgets that he is a preacher of the everlasting truth. His thought and style are the expression of a scholarly mind and devout heart. I am quite certain that the people who are unwilling to receive him, would, if they only heard him, be grateful for the appointment. Apart altogether from the question of settlement, it would be a blessing, an awakening, to many vacant congregations to have Mr. Howie in their pulpits for two or three Sabbaths.

But how, it is asked, can a blind man do pastoral work, and how is he to be entertained? Well, he has been my guest for three or four days, and I found—I admit to my surprise—that he requires no more attention than any other man. He can find his own room as easily, take his meals as nicely and attend to his own wants—such as dressing, shaving, telling the time, etc., as well as any one can. He causes no discomfort, in fact is an agreeable Christian gentleman in the home.

When recently employed in a vacant charge for eight weeks, he hired a boy to drive him, and visited every family in both congregations. Any one who has heard Mr. Howie will easily believe that these family exercises were impressive and profitable. May not the advantage of a life, so much alone with God, more than compensate for the disadvantage?

I do not think that I exaggerate in these things, and if so, ought he not to get the best possible opportunities of exercising his gifts? It is not simply a question of fair play to one received by the General Assembly, or a question of generosity to one upon whom the Lord has been pleased to lay so heavy an affliction, but a question of utilizing consecrated ability. Surely in our system there is a place for one so eminently fitted for usefulness. If not, the Church is not in a position to use her gifts to the best advantage, which is greatly to be regretted.

Parkdale, October 21, 1886.

R. P. MACKAY.

CARE FOR MOTHER.

MR. EDITOR,—How many worthy mothers who have toiled beside their husbands for years, and brought up a large family of boys and girls to young men and women, have little by little given up that careful attention to dress that went so far to making them acceptable in the eyes of their lover husbands when they were first married. They are very particular that father should look neat, and the girls must have their nice dresses, neat gloves and boots, collars and laces, and all the pretty toilet accessories; the boys, too, must look well dressed; but, oh! it makes no difference about mother. So few people see her, she is not often on the streets, and every one that comes to the house knows that mother is generally so busy in the kitchen that she cannot keep dressed up. So argues the busy, unselfish wife, secure in the thought that it can make no difference to father, who has known and loved her so long. But what are the girls thinking of? Are they not at all to blame? Well of course they would rather have a well dressed than an ill dressed mother any time, and occasionally they do array her in some of their own stylish clothing, and are surprised to see how young she looks; but mother shakes her head, and says such things are out of place for her. But, at least, the girls might see to it when she sits down tired with the morning's work, and with little ambition to stir, feeling so glad to rest, that she is not allowed to remain in that same working toilet. If loving fingers should insist on combining and arranging her hair prettily and suitably, in fastening about her neck a dainty, clean collar, after they have assisted her to change her dress and put on a nice apron, do you think father would not notice the change with pleasure? And will not a well dressed mother thus have more influence, think you, over the young men in her house? It is not necessary by any means that she should be stylish; but the daughters might and should see to it, that there is not too great a contrast between their clothing and hers. If she can once be persuaded that it gives them more pleasure to see her looking neat and even elegant, do you not think it will arouse in her more desire to be so herself? Perhaps they can arrange matters so that she will not have quite so much kitchen work, or they can occasionally go without some coveted bit of adornment in order to give mother some necessary article. Many young boys and girls, or young men and women, spend many a cent uselessly, or unwisely on themselves, which, if invested in some labour-saving article for their toiling mother at home, would insure them a great deal more true happiness. See to it, then, boys and girls, that one who has done so much for you is not neglected.

GERALDINE.