

## Obituary.

The Rev. O. M. MacKeracher, minister for twenty-nine years of the congregation of English River and Howick, in the Presbytery of Montreal, departed this life on the evening of August 5th, in his home at Howick, surrounded by his family. His illness was short. He was one of the delegates to the General Assembly this summer and spent some weeks visiting in Toronto and Kingston. During the Assembly he preached for his relative, the Rev. Jos. Locke, with his customary vigor. Returning home, he resumed his pulpit ministrations at Howick, the church at English River being closed while it underwent extensive repairs. On July 26th, he preached with more than ordinary impressiveness to a crowded church. On Wednesday of that week, the last day he was out of his bed, he visited, accompanied by Mrs. MacKeracher, ten families in his congregation and held worship in each house. The Rev. A. J. Mowatt, of Erskine church, Montreal, was engaged to conduct the special services in connection with the re-opening of the English River church on the second Sabbath in August, and the neighboring ministers were to assist, the other Presbyterian churches in the district being closed for that day. The church was opened instead with the funeral on August 7th. The service at the house was conducted by the Rev. Geo. Whillans, of Georgetown, and the Rev. D. W. Morrison, of Ormstown, that at the church by the Rev. Dr. Amaron, moderator of the Presbytery of Montreal, assisted by the Rev. Messrs. Drummond, MacDougall and McCusker. Dr. Amaron took as his text the words of Jonathan to David, "To-morrow is the new moon; and thou shalt be missed, because thy seat shall be empty," and spoke in eloquent and feeling terms of the high character, the Christian fortitude, and the gentleness of the deceased, to whom the younger members of the Presbytery had been accustomed to look up as to a father. The remains were carried to the grave by the elders of the church and were followed by the three sons, the members of the Presbytery who were present, and almost the whole countryside, irrespective of race and religion, for the deceased was one whom all who knew him regarded with reverence and affection. He was not one of the doctors of divinity, and his voice was seldom heard in the courts of the Church, but he was, nevertheless, a man of scholarship and culture, a man devoted to his God and the people, which He had given him, a man who set duty before everything else, and a man of peace. He had many trials in life and his ministry, yet the text of the last sermon he preached was, "My yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

## THE CHURCH ABROAD.

The Rev. John H. Dickie, M.A., has been appointed minister of Springburn Glasgow.

The Rev. W. Guthrie Law, St. Ninians, preached at the annual open-air meeting in Kirk-o'-Muir.

The Rev. R. Blair, D.D., St. John's, Edinburgh, is at the request of the Presbytery visiting the Islay congregations.

Dunfermline P. Presbytery has unanimously sustained the call from the Urr congregation to the Rev. Mr. Alexander, Glasgow.

The Rev. Dr. P. McAdam Muir was the recipient last week of a handsome suite of dining-room furniture from his Edinburgh friends.

The Marquis of Bute has given a contribution of £100 towards the complete renovation and restoration of the fine monument erected to the Earl of Dunbar nearly three hundred years ago in the Parish church of Dunbar.

The Rev. Professor Orr has undertaken the editorship of the United Presbyterian Magazine and in his efficient hands it is certain to maintain the high position it has long occupied among denominational periodicals.

At a meeting of the congregation of Coldstream the Rev. Alexander Hay, assistant at Westbourne Free Church, Glasgow, was unanimously appointed minister.

Kinross Presbytery has agreed to the translation of the Rev. James Muir, B.D., of Cowdenbeath, to be colleague to the Rev. William Ross, Cowcaddens, Glasgow.

The short lect to be heard in connection with the vacancy at Oban consists of Rev. Morris Stewart, Edinburgh; Rev. Mr. Paterson, Glasgow; Rev. Alex. Hay, Glasgow.

The Rev. David Guthrie, who has been assistant to the Rev. Andrew Keay, Stockbridge, Edinburgh, during the last two and a half years, has been presented by the congregation with a purse of twenty-one sovereigns as a mark of their appreciation of his services in the mission district and of his pulpit ministrations.

The sums contributed over the church to the General Free Mission Fund was £3,274 11s. 5d., being a decrease of £169 10s.; and to the Women's Society, £385 2s. 1d., an increase of £8 15s. 2d. In the Edinburgh Presbytery the contributions to the General Fund amounted to £613 14s. 10d., a decrease of £5 10s. 7d.; and to the Women's Society, £180 1s. 6d.

The Rev. Charles McPherson MacKeracher was born in Aberfeldy, Perthshire Scotland, in 1827; was a graduate of Edinburgh University, taking theology at Free Church College, Edinburgh, and a post-graduate theological course at Princeton Seminary. He was ordained in 1861; his first charge was Bradford, Ont., and he settled at English River and Howick, in 1867, and continued there through the remainder of his life. He leaves a widow, three sons and a daughter. His illness was of short duration. His wife and daughter, who watched by his bedside, tell of the peace and calm which characterized his last days. Through the pain and weakness, and above it the spiritual life was growing and shining with even more than wonted beauty. Gathering his family about him he spoke to them and gave to each his parting blessing. He is not dead, but gone before and will live in the hearts of his people to whom he was so much attached.

## A SURE ESTATE.

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"If only great things were independent of the little ones, what a success we should have in every department of affairs, for there are thousands who can plan who fail in carrying out a design. Many a man, no doubt, who has 'planned' to have his life insured has, as yet, failed to carry out the design. Perhaps you are one of them. Get your plan and your design together at once, ere the designs of death are made manifest, and you are gathered to your fathers."


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## BOILING RIVER

It is sure enough, it is not as large as the Mississippi, indeed it is quite small, but a mighty interesting stream for all that. It issues from the sides of a Mountain in a thousand tiny rills, more or less and of almost as many colors. These gather themselves into pools and lakelets on the mountain's side, covering an area of about 200 acres. Overflowing their boundaries they slowly trickle down the sides of the mountain forming small cliffs, the most wonderful in the world. From a distance one can hardly believe what the eyesight reveals—white, black, orange, lemon, terra cotta, green, blue, red, pink, separate and in manifold combinations stand out before him. It is a hill of painted cliffs on the sides of the mountain that rises high above. And the odd part of it is that each of these exquisite colors represent a different temperature. Does that startle your credulity? Even so it is true.

When through with this beautiful painting process, these waters again come together and then, as if full of mischief like a pack of small boys trying to play hide and seek, dive down and remain under the ground for a space of two miles and then flow out from the mouth of a canyon as one of the clearest, most beautiful, green streams imaginable. Where these waters emerge from the mountain into the little lakes they are hot, boiling hot. During their dark underground journey they fall several hundred feet and also in my degrees in hotness, so that when they again see daylight they are much cooler. This then is Boiling River, an underground mountain stream of hot water.

But you ask, where is it? Where can I see it? It is in Yellowstone Park at Mammoth Hot Springs. It is one of the lesser, mind you the lesser wonders of this land of wonders. Go there and see it by all means but first send to Chas. S. Fee, General Passenger Agent, Northern Pacific Railroad, St. Paul, Minn., six cents for Wonderland 96, that tells all about this renowned region.

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