

valuable spiritual influences which he had in the fellowship of his uncle, and risked all the evil influences of Sodom's inhabitants.

There was no vision from God warning him against the step he proposed for himself. In providence there was no evidence of God's displeasure.

So far as we know he was a successful man. His heart was wrong and delighting in the things of earth. God permitted that for a time Lot might be chastised and punished in the way he had chosen that through the punishment he might behold his own sin. The people in the wilderness with unthankful hearts spoke spitefully of the manna which was so well adapted to their bodily health. In scorn they called it "this light food" and urged for something else. God granted this request and sent among them abundance of flesh and it was to them a punishment because of the spirit they were cherishing. While the flesh was between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the wrath of the Lord was kindled against the people and the Lord smote the people with a great plague.

The man who refuses to hear, the Lord sometimes gives prosperity so that his wealth increases to such a degree that it becomes his tormentor. There are some men who get riches and not by right and leave them in the midst of their days and at the end are fools.

When the soul lives not for God it turns every blessing into a curse for itself. Some men in the days of their poverty and adversity have given great promise of future usefulness in the church but riches have increased and they have become unfruitful. They have turned their prosperity into a punishment, so that their souls have become withered like the heath in the desert and see not when good comes.

Let us regard the liberty of choosing and refusing as a precious treasure committed to our trust, the use of which involves great responsibilities; and seeing that men have determined their choice through wrong motives and that these sinful desires have sometimes been granted by God in accordance with persistent rebellion against His declared will in order that the rebellion might be chastised and punished. Let these great mistakes of man in the past urge us to choose Him who is the wisdom of God; Whom He has sent to work for us righteousness and deliverance. Let us choose Him as our king to go before us to conquer all His and our enemies.

SHOULD WE HAVE A PRESBYTERIAN PUBLISHING HOUSE?

MR. EDITOR,—The question placed at the head of this letter is one to which I should like, with your kind permission, to call the attention of your readers. Various religious denominations in our own, and other countries, have established denominational book rooms and publishing houses, which have done excellent work in furthering the interests of the denominations and of our common Christianity; and, if such institutions have proved eminently useful and successful in other connections, there appears to be a sufficient reason why our young but strong and growing Church should at least give serious consideration to this question. It is this reason which leads me to address to you this and a few following letters.

Look first at the position attained and the work done by other denominational publishing houses. In your own city there is a good example of them in the Methodist Book Room and Publishing House. That institution has been in operation for more than half a century and has prospered financially to such an extent that it has a capital stock worth more than a hundred thousand dollars. During the years of its existence it has dispensed a good healthy Christian literature to the Methodist churches and the general community, which must have been of very great value. It publishes various Sabbath school periodicals, the hymn books and other strictly denominational works required by the body, besides bringing into circulation a great deal of general literature of a good and edifying description. The fact that it has met with such financial success shows that its services have been thoroughly appreciated. People will not support an institution unless it is really worth supporting, and our Methodist brethren who are a highly practical people have testified to the value of this book room by sustaining it in a vigorous and flourishing condition, and it is not without good reason that they have done so; for this publishing house has not only grown wealthy during its past existence, but also annually

contributes a large sum of money to the benevolent funds of the Methodist Church. If we mistake not the superannuation fund of the Church receives annually a large donation from this source. In connection with the same large and enterprising Church there is a branch of the Toronto book-room in Montreal and an independent house in Halifax.

If now we cast our eyes to the neighbouring Republic we have a still more magnificent example of denominational publishing enterprise in the Presbyterian Board of Publication. It would be impossible, in the space to which I wish to confine myself, to describe the good which has been and is being done by this great institution. We are familiar in our Canadian Sabbath schools with the Sabbath school literature, in the shape of helps, periodicals and books, produced and published by the Presbyterian Board. And in addition it is the means of disseminating a very large body of literature of a general kind, and also a great deal partaking more or less of a denominational character. In these days when so much trash is the shape of books is scattered broadcast throughout the land, who can doubt the importance of an institution which offers and brings within easy reach of the people a sound, good and cheap Christian and general literature? The Presbyterian Board does not confine itself to the publication of good literature. It is a great missionary agency as well. It sends its literature by means of colporteurs and cr. 'lists and missionaries throughout the length and breadth of the United States and is thus doing a work of immense value.

In England, too, denominational publishing houses have been established and attained to great proportions and done valuable work.

Now, we of the Presbyterian Church in Canada have entered, but a short time ago, upon a new epoch of our history. We are strong and vigorous; our numbers increasing; our wealth increasing; our territory rapidly growing larger; urgent calls continually made upon us to go on and take up wider possession of the land. Has the time not come when we should consider whether an institution which has been so helpful and so successful in other bodies and other lands might not be established, with great advantage, by ourselves? Will you kindly allow me space in your valuable periodical for a few letters upon this question? And will your readers kindly give their calm and patient attention to its consideration?

Brockville, Ont., Oct., 1883. ROBERT JARDINE.

THE McALL MISSION IN FRANCE.

MR. EDITOR,—The readers of THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN cannot be altogether ignorant of the McAll Mission and its wonderful success and extension. It began at first in an obscure and apparently unpromising part of Paris. It has now extended itself not only in Paris, but outside the walls as well as in many cities and towns of France. Up to the end of 1882 there were in all eighty mission stations with upwards of 13,000 sittings. In Lyons, Bordeaux, Lille, Boulogne-sur mer, La Rochelle, Montauban and Toulouse, Biarritz and Bayonne, Dunkirk and a number of other towns. The work has been begun and carried on with very marked success. During the year 1882 upwards of 10,500 religious meetings had been held attended by upward of 717,000. Domiciliary visits had been made to upwards of 12,500 families; while 227,252 Bibles, New Testaments, portions of Scripture, books, tracts and illustrated papers had been circulated. In almost every place the people are not only willing, but eager to receive copies of the Scriptures and evangelical books and tracts.

The blessing of God has, in a most marked way, been vouchsafed to the missionary agents, and doors are opened in every direction. A severe trial was experienced in the removal of the Rev. G. Theophilus Dodds, who died a little more than a year ago; but although this beloved worker was in the providence of God removed, the work still goes on and workers are raised up for the work.

The quarterly report for October, 1883, gives an interesting account of the work done at Boulogne-sur mer on board the mission boat "Annie" kindly put at the disposal of Mr. McAll by Mr. H. Cook, of Portsmouth. The services on board the "Annie" attracted many sailors and others connected with the sea. They listened attentively to the addresses, joined heartily in the singing of hymns, and received gladly the tracts and illustrated papers which were distributed. English, German, Swedish and Norwegian sailors

were also met with, and many of them were deeply interested.

The same quarterly report gives a most interesting account of a missionary round of visits at Charenton, a suburb of Paris, not wanting in Huguenot memories. The missionary with a friend spent three days in this missionary round, carrying a large haversack well stored with Gospels, tracts and illustrated papers. In almost every case these were thankfully received, and meetings were well attended. At the close a woman remarked "at the church all they give us is holy water; here we get a book and a shake of the hand." At another village they learned that the village church is abandoned, that out of a population of 650 not twenty attend mass. The conclusion they came to was that now is a golden opportunity for winning France to a pure Gospel. Town and country alike are ready for the Gospel.

Any contributions for the McAll missions will be received and transmitted to Paris by the writer of this. P. O. Drawer 2,607. W. REID.

THE LATE REV. D. McCANNELL, B.A., OF CARBERRY, MANITOBA.

In the early removal by death of the Rev. D. McCannell, B.A., minister of Carberry and Peurel, in the Presbytery of Manitoba, after a short illness, on the evening of Tuesday, 30th Oct., the Church sustains a severe loss. Mr. McCannell was a native of Collingwood, Ont., where his parents still reside. Having received the necessary training in the schools of that town, he entered Queen's College, Kingston, where he completed the full course of studies in the spring of 1881. Shortly afterwards he received licence and ordination from the Presbytery of Kingston, with the view of an appointment by the Home Mission Committee as a missionary to the North-West, arriving in Winnipeg a little over two years ago. After supplying Springfield and Sunnyside for a few Sabbaths, he was appointed by the Presbytery at its December meeting to the large and important district known as the Big Plain, where he entered upon duties of the most arduous kind with a cheerful earnestness that secured for him the fullest confidence of the Presbytery and the highest esteem and warmest affection of the people scattered over the large district of which he had charge. Possessed of exceptional strength and vigour of mind and body, he threw himself into his work with an earnestness and enthusiasm that produced the gratifying results of two well organized congregations. One, Carberry and Peurel, over which he was regularly settled in May last, being self-sustaining and having a handsome and comfortable church, and another, Oberon, with associated stations fast approaching the same position.

In addition to the onerous duties of his own charge, a large share of Presbytery work fell upon him. This he always undertook with unvarying readiness and discharged with the greatest cheerfulness and faithfulness. The last work he did was to preach and preside on the occasion of Mr. Wellwood's induction to the charge of Minnedosa. In order to fill this appointment he had to drive a distance of fifty miles. This long journey he undertook, the day being one of the most disagreeable of the season, although feeling very unwell before leaving home. Immediately after returning home, he was prostrated with typhoid fever, resulting after about three weeks' suffering in his death.

The early and unexpected removal of a young minister, just when he had laid the foundation of what promised to be a life of great usefulness in the service of Christ, is indeed a striking proof that God's ways are not our ways, nor His thoughts as our thoughts, and emphasises anew the solemn injunction; "Be ye also ready for ye know neither the day nor the hour when the Son of man cometh."

Neepawa, Manitoba.

D. MCRAE.

THE Rev. Dr. Cochrane has been notified that the Colonial Committee of the United Presbyterian Church in Scotland have agreed to give £50 for four years, to any two of their preachers who are prepared to devote themselves to the Canadian field.

SINCE I have known God in a saving manner, painting, poetry, and music have had charms unknown to me before. I have received what I suppose is a taste for them, for religion has refined my mind, and made it susceptible of impressions from the sublime and beautiful.—Henry Martyn.