

everybody's door is no advantage as long as they serve no higher purpose than keeping the children out of their mothers' way when they are busy. For the loss of these establishments, and for their labor in trudging half-a-mile to school even on a cold winter morning, the boys and girls of Scotland are well repaid by the advantage of properly heated, ventilated, and lighted apartments; classes arranged in accordance with correct educational principles; and teachers, the best that a large and wealthy corporation can provide. In a large public school, the head master who ought always to be a well trained and intelligent educator, has the various departments under his own eye, from the primary classes to the highest form. He prescribes the course and the mode of teaching; and he can see by frequent and close inspection that his instructions are properly carried out. By this means, he and his higher grade of teachers are relieved from the labor of making up deficiencies in primary instruction or even of getting the pupils to unlearn what has been learned amiss at elementary schools beyond his control; and he is thus enabled to devote the whole of his time and energy, as well as the time and energy of his assistants, to the work of directly furthering the progress of the pupils.

Another interesting item in the Report is the working of the "Compulsory Clause." We have such a clause in our School Act in the Province of Ontario; but it is a dead letter. A blank is sent to the School Trustees to be filled in and returned to the Inspector with the names of those children who do not attend some school during, at least, four months of the year. But in most cases the trustees, who have perhaps been elected by the votes of the very persons who will not send their children to school, refuse to give the required information lest they should offend their constituents. There are other reasons besides this one why the education of the country should not be left so much in the hands of petty trustees. Township Boards would be an improvement, and we are not very sure that we would be quite content to stop even at that. But as to this matter of the failure to enforce the compulsory clause, it may not be the trustees who are always to blame. It may be that in some cases the Inspectors must shoulder the responsibility. Be the fault where it may, we have not heard of any prosecution under this clause although it has been in force for several years. But the compulsory clause is not a dead letter in Scotland. The number of parents summoned in that country during 1877 for failure to send their children to school was 10,812; and by this means it is estimated that 22,886 children have been during the year brought under instruction, who would otherwise have gone to swell the ranks of that ignorant semi-barbarous class which forms so large an element of our great populations; from which the greater proportion of the criminal army is drafted; and but for the existence of which we should never have heard of the monster which has appeared under various names at different periods in the world's history, and which now stalks abroad under the name of Communism.

In the opinion of the "Herald and Presbyter," Father Hyacinthe will be received again a penitent into the Roman Catholic Church. If he returns to his "former allegiance," we should like to know what he is to do with his wife.

#### CHINA FAMINE RELIEF.

The following amounts have been received by Rev. W. Reid, Toronto, for China Famine Relief, and remitted to Rev. W. Muirhead, Shanghai:—

Per "Globe" office, \$25; Mrs. McIntyre, Pakenham, \$13; Friend, \$5; Nemo, \$1; "Respectfully," \$1. James, Toronto, \$10; Thomas McKay, Toronto, \$1; A. Sunter, Meaford, \$1; A. Phillips, Fergus, \$3; People of Ayr and neighbourhood, \$260; Dunbarton and Duffin's Creek, \$17; Rev. Thomas Fenwick, Metis, \$4; Friend, Isabella street, Toronto, \$5; Thomas Fraser, Pine River, \$1; Delaware, St. Andrew's, and South, \$9.60; Friend, \$1; Uxbridge, \$12; Teeswater, \$60; West King, \$16; Thedford, Knox Church, \$18.32; Ayr, additional, \$5; Friends in Chatham, New Brunswick, \$20; Friend, \$4; Leaskdale, sale of ladies work, \$8; A. Mustard, Leaskdale, \$2; James Leask, Leaskdale, \$4; Queensville and Ravenshoe, \$15.50.

#### INDUCTION SPRINGFIELD AND ALYMER.

Another new and settled charge is added to the Roll of the Canada Presbyterian Church—"Springfield and Alymer." These are very young mission stations, and on ground entirely new to the Presbyterian Church, they have come up quickly into the position of a supplemented congregation.

On Wednesday, 24th August, 11 a.m., the London Presbytery met at Springfield and proceeded with the induction services. The Rev. D. B. Whimster preached; Rev. M. Fraser, of St. Thomas, presided and addressed the new minister, the Rev. A. Beamer; Rev. J. A. Murray, of London, addressed the people. The entire service was conducted with instructive impressiveness and profit to all present. Mr. Beamer was heartily received by the congregation at the door of the church.

In the afternoon, the deputation in company with a number of the Springfield people proceeded to Alymer, some five miles distant. And in the evening, a reception was held in a beautiful grove adjoining the village, where was convened the congregation and a large number of all denominations to sympathize with the young Presbyterian Church and their newly settled pastor. After ample refreshment and a good deal of promenading, C. McDougall, M.P. for the County of Elgin, took the chair and called the people to order. And after a suitable address, Mr. Black and a member of the Sabbath School presented the new pastor with an elegant pulpit Bible, and a well expressed address of welcome, neatly engrossed on parchment. Mr. Beamer's reply was very appropriate and earnest. The Rev. John McEwen, of Ingersoll, being called upon to address the meeting, said, that from personal knowledge he could congratulate the London Presbytery and the congregation of Springfield and Alymer in their having secured the services of Mr. Beamer; and that he brought to this young congregation much experience and ability; he was not newly planted in the Master's work, but had proved himself to be a workman needing not to be ashamed.

The start of this new congregation was full of promise. Addresses of welcome, sympathy, and congratulation were delivered by the resident ministers of the town.

The enjoyment of the occasion was increased by the music of the Alymer brass band.

We believe that at no distant day this charge will be not only self-sustaining, but a source of strength to the Presbyterian cause.

#### DR. SOMERVILLE IN NEW ZEALAND.

The following account of Dr. Somerville's visit is from the Otago "Evangelist" of June 1st, which also contains a separate report of each meeting held by him in Dunedin:

"The visit of the veteran Free Church minister, the Rev. Dr. Somerville, and of his son, Mr. W. F. Somerville, to the city of Dunedin, has been a memorable one. For months before their arrival, prayers have been offered up that if the Lord would permit them to come to our shores, a rich blessing might accompany their labours, and that the Lord of the Harvest would give them many souls for their care. Such large and continuous crowds as nightly thronged the larger places of public resort in the city have seldom or never been seen in Dunedin. Up to the day of their departure the public interest remained deep and un-

abated in the Evangelists and their work. Their visit was a delightful one, and the results, as they are already known and continue to manifest themselves, evoke heartfelt gratitude, and afford material for praise and thanksgiving to the Lord's people. Christ has been preached, and therein we do rejoice. The vital and energetic principles of Christianity in which all Christians are agreed the saving truths which cluster round the fact of the Saviour's mediation and become life in men's souls—were dwelt upon with much emphasis, and beautifully illustrated. Souls have been awakened, others have been refreshed and revived, and a new impulse has been given to many of God's people, which we trust will show itself in an unostentatious eagerness to engage in works of faith and labours of love. Our prayer is that the Divine blessing may abide with both the Preacher and the Singer of the Gospel, and that the results of their labours may go eddying on, ever widening and increasing amongst us.

"The audiences at the noonday prayer meeting and at the evening evangelistic services were, relatively speaking, very large, and were composed of all classes of the community. Every addition to the accommodation provided was followed, especially in the evenings, by an inpouring of eager men and women; but notwithstanding, we have the impression left on us, after an occasional cursory glance at the audience, that they differed in no perceptible degree from the usual city congregations on Sunday, and that the population that lies outside our Churches did not respond to the general invitation. But yet we have confidence in the law of the kingdom, that a revived Church is followed by an increased Church. No sooner do our members attain to a firmer faith and a more intense realisation of the truths they profess to hold, than they will learn that those outside our Churches must be invaded to be reached,—must have the Gospel of the Kingdom brought to them if they are to be brought within the pale of the Kingdom of the Gospel. Let our Church now *strengthen* her stakes and *lengthen* her cords, and let *edification* and *multiplication* go on simultaneously.

"From the time of Dr. Somerville's arrival, there was the utmost interest manifested in the work, not only by the ministers of the evangelical Churches in the city, but by ministers from the neighbourhood of Dunedin and "from the regions beyond." There was a conspicuous forgetfulness of denominational differences; and Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Congregationalists, Methodists, and Baptists realized the fact that evangelical Christianity overflows the narrow vessels which are supposed to hold it. True brotherly love and intercourse were patent on the common platform, and keen examination could not have detected a tinge of denominational jealousy.

"There was a spirit of expectation aroused among the people that a rich blessing was to be vouchsafed them when the mission services began. Subordinate to this, vigorous efforts were made by the Evangelistic Committee—an organization which we trust will continue in existence and be a permanent factor for good. Of the efficiency of the committee, or of the value of the services they rendered, there cannot be the shadow of a doubt; and much credit is due to the Honorary Secretary, Rev. Mr. Mackie, for the exuberance of interest he manifested. The work seems to have been divided among them, like prize money among officers.

"There was an entire absence of excitement, so far as we have learned, at the evangelistic meetings. The Spirit was present, not like a mighty rushing wind—not like the *Stream* in flood overflowing the dry grounds—not in Pentecostal effusion,—but like the gentle rain or the silently falling dew. The eager earnest face seen at the after-meeting spoke eloquently of the jubilant consciousness of restoration to the favour of God. Visible emotion was singularly absent,—emotion such as we have seen when the enthusiasm was not proportioned to the *grip* of God's truth which the individual attained to.

"We are confident that if the members of our Churches have reaped much benefit during the mission,—and we know many of them have,—there will be more work done for Jesus, more preaching of a practical Gospel in our homes, and fields, and workshops, and offices, than during the past. Let the prophecy of to-day be the history of to-morrow! Let us realize with impassioned earnestness that *Christ is for us*, and then, O then, shall we not be *for Christ*? Not till *then* shall there be a new life infused into our old organisations. May God supply it through Him who is the way, the truth, and the life!"