

Our Contributors.

TRAVEL AS AN EDUCATOR.

BY KNOXIAN.

Teachers and books stand first as educators; travel comes next. Unless the teachers and books are fairly good, travel comes first. A trip to Europe does more to educate a young man who has a pair of good eyes than some professors could do in a college course as long as Methuselah's natural life. A good tour is a much better educator than a poor book.

The schoolmaster has been abroad in this country for some years and has been doing good work. There are not many natives of Ontario who cannot read or write. There may be a few who write some things they should not write and a good many who read, especially at this season of the year, a lot of rubbish they should not read, but the number who cannot use a book or pen is very small. The man with the birch has done his duty, and the woman with the strap has helped him nobly. The thoughtful looking fellow who stands on the locomotive arrayed in his oily overalls has also helped mightily, and though he never speaks at a teachers' convention he has done more to educate the people than some teachers who put a string of affixes to their names. The engineer who takes a hundred people over the Rockies, or east to New York or Boston, is doing fine educational work.

This kind of educational work has increased immensely in Ontario. Thirty or forty years ago comparatively few people went from home, and those who did seldom went far. Prior to the railroad era the facilities for travel were not first-class. Inland people had to drive in a waggon or buggy, ride on horseback or go by the independent railway. By the independent railway we mean the one that nature has provided most people with. The trains on this line run between two and three miles an hour. The conductor can stop and start the train any time he pleases. The engineer may put on as much or as little steam as he likes. The early settlers travelled a great deal by the independent line. As the trains ran slow, the distances they went from home were generally short. Now there is a railroad to nearly every county, and some counties are fairly cut up by railway tracks. Anybody in the older parts of the country can get on a railway train by going a few miles, and the result is that nearly everybody takes a trip. Occasionally you meet a man who has "never been on the cars," but the number of such men is small. The people travel, and the sum total of the intelligence of the country is immensely increased by the travel.

The extent to which travel has increased may be at least partly estimated by the small amount of attention most people pay to the coming and going of almost anybody. In the good old times the going of an ordinary man a hundred miles from home was a great event. The neighbours spoke about it for days, and when the man came home he was a hero. Now it does not make a hero of a man to go around the globe. The early retail merchants of Ontario used to make two trips a year to Montreal to buy goods. That trip was considered a greater thing than a tour through Europe is now considered. Nobody notices the fact now that a business man has gone to Montreal or New York. In fact going across the Atlantic attracts no attention in a town of any size. People are going and coming all the time, and their movements are taken as part of the daily life of the community.

This increase of travel is a good thing. Many of the difficulties we have to contend against in Church and State could be cured by generous travel. Church difficulties are more frequently caused by smallness than by wickedness. The cause of Christ is oftener injured by the littleness, the narrowness, the contractedness of people than by their positive sinfulness. For one obstacle the Church has to contend against because its members do wilfully that which is wrong it has to contend against a hundred that arise from sheer downright smallness. There are not many people in the communion of the Presbyterian Church that would coolly and deliberately do that which they know to be wrong. There are too many, however, who injure Christ's cause by their smallness when they have not the slightest intention of wrong doing. Not only so, there are too many who think that their very smallness is evidence of superior piety. They believe that their narrowness is convincing proof of their orthodoxy and their personal holiness.

We hear much these days about Briggs and the Higher Criticism. Briggs is not a charming man. His arrogance and the sneering, contemptuous way in which he and his tribe of imitators speak of all who do not bow down to their school make one rather pleased to see the American Assembly deal vigorously with them. But it is truth to say smallness does the Church of Christ a million times more harm than Dr. Briggs ever did it. Meanness makes more sceptics than criticism either high or low. The man who calls himself one of Christ's kings and then gives a cent on special occasions to support the kingdom does the Church much more harm than any of its avowed enemies.

One of the best remedies for smallness is travel. People who never move off their farm or out of their shop have no idea of how large a place the world is nor of the number of people in it. They have no conception of the number of ways there are of doing things. They labour under the delusion that there is only one way of doing anything and that is the way they do it themselves. They imagine that the spot on which they live is the centre of the globe, if not of

the universe, and a little travel soon convinces them that there are a few other places worthy of some consideration. They have no patience with anybody who does not swallow their opinions and adopt their methods, but they are not long from home until they learn lessons of tolerance that could never have been learned at home. Men who have seen a little of the world are seldom narrow, intolerant bigots.

AN OPEN LETTER

TO PRESBYTERIANS OUTSIDE OF TORONTO WHO PURPOSE ATTENDING THE PAN PRESBYTERIAN COUNCIL.

DEAR FRIENDS,—I hope you will not think the citizens of Toronto unfriendly, if, at the request of some in the city who are earnest friends of the Church and deeply interested in the success of the coming Council, I offer some suggestions about the question of hospitality. The people in Toronto have been requested to provide homes for the delegates to the Council, and to give them first place in the way of accommodation. These delegates are strangers from all parts of the world. It will be many years before we can have another such Council in Toronto, and it is fitting that we should make the members of the Council feel at home with us while here. This will be difficult if those friends who are usually entertained at times of the Assembly or Synod expect to claim the usual place accorded to them, or expect friends whose homes have been taken for delegates, to entertain them as usual, without previous arrangement. It will cost the Presbyterians of the city \$7,000 to meet all needful expense, and they deserve consideration from their friends outside this time, so that there may be no unpleasant crowding. Every effort will be made to arrange beforehand with hotels and boarding houses, so that visitors may secure home comforts at moderate rates, and thus enjoy all the benefits of the Council while having the citizens to entertain the visitors from abroad. It is hoped that every allowance will be made when old acquaintances find themselves unable to entertain friends by reason of the claims which the Billeting Committee has made upon them. Trusting and expecting a very pleasant and profitable time. I am, yours truly,

W. BURNS, Secretary.

August 4, 1892.

AN APPEAL FOR AID.

MR. EDITOR,—At a meeting of the Presbytery of Barrie, held on the 26th ult., a memorial was received from Mr. George Copeland, elder at Sprucedale, regarding the church which the congregation there is endeavouring to erect this summer. I may remind your readers that about a year ago Mr. Copeland appeared before Presbytery and obtained leave to solicit subscriptions for the erection of this church from friends outside the district, the case being one which appealed strongly to our sympathies. Of the amount subscribed in different congregations a considerable portion remains unpaid, and so the work has come practically to a standstill.

I quote from Mr. Copeland's memorial enough to show the state of affairs at present, in the hope that those who have subscribed will forward their subscriptions as early as possible, and any others who may be inclined to help on a good work may have an opportunity of doing so.

You are aware that we have solicited aid both from congregations and individuals, but regret to say that their responses in most cases have not been so hearty as we expected, consequently we are placed in a rather awkward position, and unless further assistance is forthcoming we shall not be able to carry the work to completion. We have got the walls up, and boarded inside and out with rough lumber, and the roof on. The siding and flooring are ordered and paid for, but we still require not less than \$200 to pay for windows and labour. If we had the amount that was promised and subscribed we would not have to make this appeal to you, but, unless we can get the amount asked, all that is done will be of no use to us meantime. If we could only get it fit for occupation, then I have no doubt but that we will get through. I might say the money we have expended has been laid out in the most judicious and economical manner. No unnecessary expense has been incurred. We have done all in our power, and regret our inability to proceed further. We therefore appeal to you in this our time of need to come to our aid and assist us so that we may have a place wherein to worship the God of our fathers.

I may state that the Presbytery is taking careful oversight of this matter. Mr. Robertson, of Burk's Falls, was appointed at this meeting of Presbytery to visit Sprucedale at an early date and make enquiry into the whole matter of receipt and expenditure, not that the Presbytery had reason to suspect anything wrong, but as a guarantee to subscribers that their money was being properly expended.

A. FINDLAY.

PULPIT LECTURES.

MR. EDITOR,—I ask permission to call attention to a very interesting and instructive volume by the Rev. Thomas Kirk, of Edinburgh, entitled, "Samson, His Life and Work." The book is in the form of pulpit lectures, but deals quite thoroughly with every part of its subject. The mythical theory of Samson's life, as represented by Steinthal and others, is subjected to careful examination, and found to be inadmissible and unsatisfactory. Mr. Kirk well analyzes the singularly mixed character of Samson, though his estimate of him is much higher than that given by many. His faith is set in a clear light, and he takes his place, as he should, in the illustrated roll of Old Testament worthies. The histori-

cal and geographical setting of the narrative is skilfully managed, much enhancing the pleasure of the reader.

We should be pleased to learn that this volume, which has been very favourably received in Scotland, had found its way into Canada, and that its merits had secured for it a good circulation.

Mr. Kirk, it may be mentioned, is a nephew of an esteemed minister of our Church, the Rev. Mr. Hamilton, of Motherwell.

WILLIAM CAVEN.

Toronto, August, 1892.

PRESBYTERY MEETINGS.

PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.—This Presbytery met in St. Andrews Church (West) on Tuesday, the 2nd inst., the Moderator, Rev. W. Reid, Weston, in the chair. A resolution expressing the sympathy of the Presbytery with Professor R. Y. Thomson in his recent sore bereavement was presented on behalf of the committee by Dr. Gregg. The resolution was adopted as read, and a copy ordered to be transmitted to Professor Thomson. Revs. W. A. Wilson, of India; Dr. Fraser, of Baltimore, U.S.; A. McMillan and A. R. Linton being present, were invited to sit as corresponding members. Rev. John Young, of Niagara Falls South, having signified through the Presbytery of Hamilton his acceptance of the call addressed to him by St. Enochs congregation of this city, it was agreed to meet in St. Enochs Church for his induction on Tuesday, the 30th inst., at three o'clock in the afternoon. The Moderator of Presbytery will preside, Rev. Alexander Wilson was appointed to preach, Rev. J. G. Stuart, of St. Marks, city, to address the congregation, and Rev. A. MacGillivray, of Bonar Church, city, to address the minister. Referring to the disaster that had overtaken St. John's, Newfoundland, the Rev. Dr. Reid presented the following motion, which was seconded by Principal Caven, and unanimously carried: "That this Presbytery desires to record its deep sympathy with those who suffered so severely by the recent fire in St. John's, Newfoundland, and that the congregations of the Presbytery be invited to contribute to the relief of the sufferers, and towards the rebuilding of places of worship. The Presbytery, having learned that it is the intention of the Moderator of the General Assembly to make an appeal in behalf of these sufferers, desires to record its hearty approval of the same." Dr. Reid intimated his willingness to receive and forward any contributions sent for this object, and desired those sending to state how they wish their contributions applied. It being stated that the congregation of St. Enochs was at present without a Session, the Presbytery appointed the former interim Session, viz.: Messrs. Archibald MacMurchy, John Carlyle and John Thom to act as an interim Session. Mr. Alexander Miller, applying to be received as a minister of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, was transferred to the Presbytery of London, within whose bounds he is at present labouring, to be by them received as a minister of the Canadian Church. Permission was granted to Parkdale congregation, and also to Bolton and Vaughan congregations to moderate in a call when they are prepared to do so. A call from the congregations of Malton, Dixie and Port Credit, addressed from A. R. Linton, B.D., was presented, promising \$800 per annum. Commissioners from each congregation were heard, and the call was then put into Mr. Linton's hand. After consideration he intimated his acceptance of the same, and his induction was appointed for Tuesday, August 16, at 3.30 p.m., in the church at Dixie. Rev. D. M. Buchanan, Georgetown, was appointed to preach, Rev. J. A. Grant to address the people, and Dr. Carmichael to address the minister. Presbytery then adjourned to meet again on Tuesday, the 6th of September, at 10 o'clock a.m.

PRESBYTERY OF ALGOMA.—In answer to the call of the Rev. D. H. McLennan, M.A., of Bruce Mines, whom the General Assembly had appointed to constitute the new Presbytery of Algoma, the following ministers and elders met in the Presbyterian church at Gore Bay, Manitoulin Island, on Wednesday, 20th ult., at eight p.m., and were duly organized into a Presbytery: Rev. W. A. Duncan, M.A., minister, and Rev. E. B. Rogers, elder, Sault Ste. Marie; Rev. W. E. Wallace, M.A., minister, and T. J. Patten, elder, Little Current; Rev. S. Rondeau, B.A., minister, Sudbury; Rev. D. H. McLennan, M.A., minister, Bruce Mines; Rev. John Rennie, minister, and S. R. McEwen, elder, Manitowaning; Rev. J. K. MacGillivray, M.A., minister, and J. M. Fraser, elder, Gore Bay; Rev. E. Pelletier, minister, Webbwood; Charles Young, elder, St. Joseph's Island; James L. Hazen, elder, Day Mills. The services of the evening were conducted by Rev. D. H. McLennan, who preached a powerful and impressive sermon from 1 Peter iv. 18. Rev. A. Findlay, Superintendent of Missions, being called upon, related the steps which led to the formation of the Presbytery, and made an appeal for a liberal collection in aid of a fund to meet the expenses of carrying on the business of the Presbytery. The collection amounted to \$1,040. The Rev. D. H. McLennan then read the edict of the General Assembly, formed the roll and constituted the Presbytery. The Rev. W. A. Duncan was elected Moderator for the next year. Rev. J. K. MacGillivray was appointed Clerk of Presbytery, and Rev. S. Rondeau, treasurer. The Rev. A. Findlay, of the Barrie Presbytery, and the Rev. J. L. Campbell, of Orangeville Presbytery, were invited to sit as corresponding members. On Thursday a large amount of business was disposed of.