

in Mount Forest, 16th Jan., at 2 p.m. Mr. Ramsay read a carefully prepared report on the state of religion, which was received and adopted. There was presented and read a report of the Presbyterian W.F.M.S., which also met in Clifford same day. It was moved by Mr. Ramsay, duly seconded and carried, that the Presbytery, having listened with great pleasure to the report of the Presbyterian W.F.M.S., from which it appears that there are now fourteen Auxiliaries and six Missions Bands with a membership of about 390, within our bounds; that they have contributed this year to Foreign Missions a sum of \$610.33, being an increase of \$94.65; and have sent to the North West for use among the Indians, clothing valued at \$564.95, being an increase of \$214.63; hereby records its sense of the great importance of the work in which the ladies are engaged, tenders its congratulations upon the success of their operations, and extends its hope that they may go on and prosper until among the multitudes of women in lands still heathen there may be none who have not heard the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ. There was a public meeting in the evening in connection with the W.F.M.S., which was well attended, when Mr. McKellar, on behalf of the Presbytery, and Mr. Ramsay on behalf of the Society, gave able and instructive addresses on Foreign Missions.—S. Young, Clerk.

The Presbytery of Ottawa met on the 12th inst. to present an address of welcome to His Excellency the Earl of Aberdeen—the new Governor-General of Canada. The members assembled in Bank Street Church whence they proceeded at noon to the Government House. Those present were: the Rev. Chas. A. Doudiet, Moderator, Rev. Dr. Moore, Rev. Dr. Armstrong, Rev. Dr. Campbell, Rev. M. H. Scott, M.A., Rev. E. F. Seylaz, Rev. R. E. Knowles, B.A., Rev. A. McGregor, B.A., Rev. R. Whillans, M.A., Rev. J. L. Gourley, Rev. T. W. Winfield, and Rev. Jas. H. Beatt; Messrs. George Hay, Wm. Kerr, A. Devinney, C. Dewar, J. I. Byrnes and J. Keane. The Rev. Dr. Wardrope, of Guelph, who was present, accompanied the Presbytery as a corresponding member. Arrived at Rideau Hall, the Presbytery was graciously received by His Excellency and Lady Aberdeen, when the following address was presented and read by the Moderator, the Rev. Chas. A. Doudiet: To His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir John Campbell Hamilton Gordon, Earl of Aberdeen, Viscount Formantine, Lord Haddo Methlic and Tarves, Baronet of Nova Scotia, Governor-General of Canada.—We are directed by the Presbytery of Ottawa to assure your Excellency of the loyalty of our people and ourselves to her Majesty's person and government, and our great satisfaction that it has pleased our beloved Sovereign to select as her representative in the Dominion a statesman whose public services command the confidence of the people of this portion of the empire, and whose Christian character is so eminently fitted to adorn the high position to which you have been called. The Presbytery of Ottawa as a portion of the Presbyterian church in Canada, claim to represent a branch of the Church of Christ with which your Excellency's ancestry has long been connected, and with whose history the house of Aberdeen, as one of the great families of Scotland, will ever remain identified. Highly appreciating as we do the priceless blessing of civil and religious liberty, which is our birthright as British subjects, we cannot forget that this splendid inheritance was won for us in a large measure by the fidelity and sacrifices of the brave men in the fatherland, and we rejoice to have among us one who claims descent from such heroic ancestry. Knowing that the fear of God lies at the foundation of all true and enduring national prosperity, it is the aim of our church to mould the people into loyal subjects of her Majesty. In this, we know, we have your Excellency's cordial support. In the name of the Presbytery, we respectfully request your Excellency to accept this copy of the minutes of the meeting of the General Assembly held in June last, which contains in brief compass a good exhibit of the strength of our church and her work in all departments during the year 1892. We pray God to make your Excellency's administration of the affairs of Canada a blessing to the whole country and the means of strengthening the many ties which

bind us to the Throne, and that both Her Excellency Lady Aberdeen and yourself may be greatly rejoiced by the success of your efforts for our good. In the name and by the authority of the Presbytery of Ottawa, (signed) Chas. A. Doudiet, Moderator, Jas. H. Beatt, Presbytery Clerk.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S REPLY.

"Mr. Moderator and gentlemen," said the Earl of Aberdeen in reply, "I beg you to accept my best thanks for this address, in which you express in dignified and graceful language your deep loyalty to the illustrious occupant of the Throne and your hearty greetings to Her Majesty's representative. Such a welcome from such a source cannot fail to be a gratification, and ought to be an encouragement. I appreciate also your thoughtful allusion to my ancestry. You doubtless refer, amongst others, to Baillie of Jerviswood (himself a descendant of John Knox), from whom, on the maternal side, I claim descent. He was a man who took a noble part in that struggle for civil and religious liberty which most members of the Presbyterian Church regard with pride and gratitude. Nor do I wish to disguise the fact that another ancestor of mine at about the same period took no small share in the public affairs of those times, but on the opposite side to that on which Baillie was ranked. That such was the case is sufficiently indicated by the fact that a transept of the ancient cathedral of St. Giles in Edinburgh was, until quite recently, known by the name of 'Haddo's Hole,' referring to the fact that Sir John Gordon, the Laird of Haddo, after enduring the siege of my ancestral home by the forces of the Covenanters, was captured, and for convenience, or perhaps with the idea that it would be for his own benefit, was imprisoned in the old church, which, I am sorry to say, he only left when he was led out to execution. I do not know whether it was owing to the counter-balancing influence of such heredity that I am indebted for a readiness to look on both sides of a question. At any rate, I have had ample opportunity for the cultivation of an impartial and comprehensive attitude of mind in regard to ecclesiastical matters, owing partly to the fact having from boyhood usually spent half the years of my life in England and half in Scotland, my experience and associations have been almost equally divided between the English and the Scottish churches, though of course my territorial connection is chiefly with the latter; and by a happy circumstance Lady Aberdeen's experience has been altogether of the same kind. The practice of attending the different churches in the two countries is, of course, not uncommon, though to some people it may seem strange. I want to quote a high example of the usage, we have only to recall the fact that Her Majesty the Queen when in Scotland has invariably attended the ministrations of the Scottish Church, and when in the southern part of the kingdom those of the Church of England." Turning to the work of the Presbyterian Church in Canada His Excellency acknowledged the important work it performed, its vast opportunities and the importance of its position. Much of this vigour could safely be attributed to the happy union of the various branches of the Presbyterian body—a union largely promoted by the just and considerate attitude of the Church of Scotland at home. His Excellency then alluded to the importance of the Home Mission work, and in this connection recounted his and the Countess of Aberdeen's experience "in a remote but charming part of British Columbia" when they attended a school house service conducted by a minister who had ridden thirty five miles through the night, to officiate. "It was a beautiful morning," said His Excellency, "and we have always retained a vivid impression of the scene. The horses and the various vehicles were tied to the trees, while the farmers were grouped around the church in quiet conversation, and their wives and families were preparing to take their places in the church; and when all was ready, without any formality the service was commenced. I cannot profess to be able to recall the substance of the sermon, nor even the text, but I retain a very vivid impression of the associations and feelings which were awakened on that Sunday. The Sabbath atmosphere was around; we felt that it was indeed Sunday, and who can measure the benefit of such emotions." Quoting from the minutes the remarks of Dr. Robertson, His Excellency spoke in terms of sympathy and encouragement upon the mission work in the North West, alluding especially to the labours of Rev. Mr. Gordon, from whom His Excellency had received a letter, thy other day, requesting assistance in obtaining written expressions of support from the municipal branches of the Presbyterian church in Scotland. In conclusion, His Excellency again expressed cordial thanks on Lady Aberdeen's behalf and his own for the kind words of the Presbytery, wishing success to the work under its control as well as to the work of the Church as a whole. The members of the deputation were then introduced to their Excellencies.

TO THE FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE POINTE-AUX-TREMBLES MISSION SCHOOLS.

We opened the present session on the 16th of October, under most encouraging and favorable auspices. The fine weather favored our young travellers, and a great many of them coming from all directions were present for the opening. Three weeks only have passed away and we have already eighty-five boys and seventy girls coming from fifty different localities, and we expect to receive about thirty more and then we shall have as many as we can accommodate this year. Eighty of our scholars are children of Roman Catholic parents, five come from Protestant homes, and the others are sent to us by families who have been rescued from the errors of Romanism. We are most thankful to God for this large gathering of young people who have been brought to us through the persevering efforts of His servants and through many difficulties perhaps unknown and hardly understood by those of our friends who are not closely connected with our missionary work. It might seem to many that a large and comfortable school, where a sound

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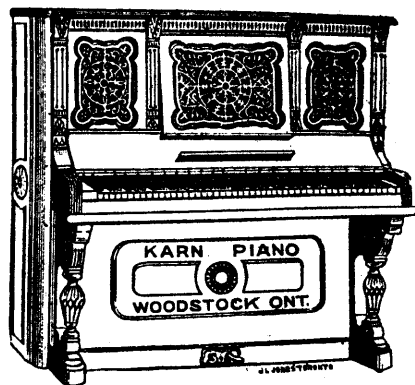
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education can be obtained at the lowest price, must be so attractive to the youths of this Province that they will flock to our doors. Far from that, we have to rather them one by one, and through many obstacles. It is true that everywhere can be found a large number of young men and young women who, having experienced how difficult it is to succeed in life without education, earnestly desire to come to us, but they meet with opposition from every direction. On the part of their parents it is a blind ignorance which refuses to see the importance of education; their tendency to keep their children at home in order to secure the profit of their work; their poverty, which does not allow them to provide for travelling or clothing expenses; the danger of seeing their neighbours turn against them and cast them out of their society; the fear of losing a situation which provides bread for the family, and, above all, the almost certainty that their children will become Protestants, as most of those who have passed through our schools have done. On the other hand, comes the influence of the priests, who scatter prejudices of all kinds against us; who refuse the sacraments of the Church to parents who send us their children; or if they consent to administer them, it is only after obtaining a solemn promise that they shall never let them come again to Pointe-aux-Trembles. If it is difficult to secure pupils for our schools, it can easily be understood that it is no less difficult to keep them. There are no cloistered walls around our buildings, our pupils are free and many of them could go home without any plausible reason and at the same time without having anything to fear from parental authority. Parents who have sent their children for one session have not always the means or the courage to send them again. If the older children of a family come to us the priest will certainly refuse to admit to their first communion the younger ones and then they will be looked upon as the outcasts of the parish. However, most of those who have spent one session with us come again, some of them only after a lapse of several years when they get the first chance of breaking up the ties which have bound them to the enemies of the truth and of progress. We sometimes receive letters from supporters expressing their surprise, if not their dissatisfaction, at the change of their pupil. We regret deeply to be frequently obliged to assign new scholars, but we never do so without being compelled by circumstances and by the reasons above mentioned. If all the young Roman Catholics who enter our schools remained with us it would certainly be a sure sign that we are not doing our duty and that we are neither exposing the errors of the Church of Rome, nor teaching the truth of the Gospel. Were our daily Bible lessons blotted out from our programme every difficulty would vanish away and we would not only receive many more applications, but all the pupils would pursue their studies without interruption. But then our schools would have lost their character and their aim, and there would be no more any reason for asking the support of the Church. In spite of all those difficulties our schools for forty-six years have carried on their noble work of rescue and every session has seen many a young soul brought from darkness to light and from sin to a free salvation through faith in Jesus. Our schools have sent messengers of the Gospel to every locality of this Province, and to their influence and faithful work is in large measure due the great change which has taken place in the disposition of the French Canadians. Our pupils are divided into five classes. The class of the beginners is the most numerous and is composed of very different elements. Pupils who are over twenty years of age learn their letters with boys of twelve. The higher class is far less numerous, and it is formed of young men who are preparing themselves for the college or the university. The subjects taught are the following: Bible, Reading, Writing, Drawing, Singing, Geography, Canadian History, General History, Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, French and English Grammar, Dictation, Composition, French and English Literature, Bookkeeping, Art of Teaching, Latin and Greek. The classes are taught from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. with two and a-half hours' recreation. The rest of the time is spent in study and housework. Every day's work is opened and closed with family prayer, and every morning the Bible is taught to all classes from nine to ten. On Sabbath we have

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JAMES MASON,
Manager.

Toronto, Dec. 14, 1893.



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regular services as well as a Sunday school, and the pupils hold a prayer meeting among themselves, which is well attended. Besides the Principal and the Directress of the Girls' school, the work is divided between five teachers, all living in the schools, as do the whole of the pupils. Everything is working harmoniously, and we feel that the Lord is with us and that the Holy Spirit is doing His blessed work in many a young soul that has been enlightened by the Gospel. We hope that a large number will be brought to Jesus during this session and that our schools will continue to be a source of light and purity, spreading in many homes their blessed influence. Do not forget, friends and supporters of these schools, that their success depends still more on your prayers than on your liberality or the faithfulness of their teachers. This year threatens to be one of financial trouble for our Board, but we pursue our work confident that Christians who cast their bread upon the waters in heathen lands will not remain indifferent to the needs of this mission amongst our own countrymen.

Yours very truly,

JULES BOURGOIN.

Pointe-aux-Trembles, Nov. 14th, 1893.

P.S.—All contributions should be sent direct to the Treasurer, Rev. Robert H. Warden, D.D., Box 1839, Post Office, Montreal.

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