

used last year in many cases with good results.

The committee commend this object to the earnest consideration of ministers and people, confident that continued success in securing a decent maintenance for ministers in needy districts will tell favourably on every department of the work of the Lord committed to us. On behalf of the sub-committee on Augmentation,

D. J. MACDONNELL, *Convener.*

ROBT. H. WARDEN, *Secretary.*

### Editorial Gittings.

#### FROM DERRY TO DUBLIN.

**W**E sailed from Quebec on the morning of the 14th of June, in the *Poly-nesian*, of the "Allan Line"—the "rolling Polly," she has been called, but she is no worse than other screws. They all do it, wind and weather permitting. The ships of this line are splendid sea-boats, commanded by careful, skilful, and gentlemanly captains. The regularity with which they perform the mail service, when the difficulties of the route are taken into account, is simply marvellous. Of the eighteen summer passages I have made in these steamers, the longest, from Rimouski to Moville, was nine days: the shortest was six days and nineteen hours: the average time not much over eight days. They do not run so fast as some of the New York boats. In foggy weather they do not run at all, but dodge along cautiously at the "dead slow." On this account they are the *safest* steamers that cross the ocean. Their accommodation is all that can reasonably be desired. We had the usual complement of saloon passengers, and more in the steerage than one would naturally expect going east. Among the latter were farmers and traders going home to revisit the scenes and friends of early days, after long years, and hard struggles for the "independence," which their industry and perseverance at length secured. It was interesting to hear some of them relate their experience—how long it took them to cross the sea, forty or fifty years ago, in small crowded sailing ships; the trials they encountered in the new world before the days of railway and

telegraph; when there was no money in circulation; and when the noble province of Ontario was for the most part an unbroken wilderness. But all were not of this well-to-do class. There were a few "unfortunates" who never succeed anywhere—recent importations, who came here expecting to pick up gold in the streets, who never got beyond the stage of waiting for something to turn up, and who, after a brief, aimless, sojourn were going back, sadder and not wiser men, to sponge upon their poor relations and to decry Canada. In the cabin, our pleasant company included eight ministers, five of them Presbyterians bound for the Belfast Council. Several laymen were also going there. The youngest minister was selected to preach on the first Sabbath, when as yet sea and sky were serene. He preached a model sermon from the text,—“There was no more sea.” A week later he was heard to remark in a subdued tone of voice, that the next time he preached from that text he would have something more to say about it. On Sunday evening, the 21st, less than eight days from Rimouski, we disembarked at Moville and sailed up Loch Foyle in the steam tender to Londonderry, some twenty miles. This approach to Derry is very picturesque. It was midnight before we reached Jury's Hotel. All of us were early astir next morning and went the round of "the walls" before breakfast. This we were told would exhaust the docket of the Derry Lions. But that does "the Maiden City" scant justice, for it is really a very nice town and a place of historic interest. It was founded as far back as the sixth century, by St. Columbkil. Twice it was burned by the Danes—in the eighth and ninth centuries—and many times destroyed by the O'Neils and others in later years, not to speak of the memorable siege of eight months from December 1688 to August 1689. In pursuance of an oath the Catholics had taken to massacre the Protestants, they advanced upon the town and were nearly entering it, when thirteen young apprentices, it is said, ran to the main guard, seized the keys, drew up the bridge and locked the gate. Inspired by the heroism of these boys, the citizens took grace of heart and set themselves in earnest to resist the invaders. Their defence of the city is one of the noblest and