

THE MISSION SCHOOL AT POINTE-AUX-TREMBLES.

By Rev. James Taylor, B.A.

Recently I made a visit to the banks of the St. Lawrence and the place was Pointe-aux-Trembles. I was to the Roman Catholic church, whose date of dedication is St. Jean Baptiste Day, 1705, a building around which was enacted a few of the many events of the long life of Pere Chiniquy. The village is a type of the more modern ones of the St. Lawrence plains of beauty and once seen is not forgotten, but pre-eminently the outstanding thing of Pointe-aux-Trembles is our Presbyterian French school, locally spoken of as "The College."

It was evening when I arrived and Principal Brandt was found in his office by the main entrance engrossed at his ledger, for the keeping of the accounts of the school is considerable; but as the eye passed over the various appointments of his duties it was soon arrested by a copy of the Bible that lay to the front of the desk and having between its leaves manuscript papers of lectures. This combination of the Bible and account book seemed to me as ideal as that of the parents who on certain birthdays presented their children with a purse and a copy of the scriptures.

I remained two days at the school and saw and experienced much for which I am grateful. There are 225 children in attendance under a staff of about 10 resident teachers; and about 15 more children have made application for entrance during November, which will be almost the number of the school's capacity. The buildings and equipment are attractive and modern; and simplicity, cleanliness and brightness prevail on all sides. No one can fail to notice the confidence, masterfulness, ideal discipline and co-operation that prevail. The generalship of a Napoleon with the sympathetic love, impartiality and thoroughness of Christians is manifest in all the arrangements and the carrying of these into effect. Under one roof 250 people more happy and successful in their work can not easily be found. The motto of the school, which is taken from the initial letters of Pointe-aux-Trembles, is Priere (prayer), Amour (love) and Travail (work), and such ideals contribute to true success.

About 80 per cent. of the children are from the homes of the poor, the real poor, and the benefactors of the school may know that their gifts are going to those who are needy. I touched deep spots in the hearts of some of those young people when I spoke to them of poverty; I saw suppressed life tremble, for they had known and many of them still know poverty; but their school is teaching them to know Christ's riches and equipping them to face life and have deliverance from the awful conditions of great need. Men of means who may read this have perhaps never felt the awfulness of being poor; many a one at this school has, but under the guidance of Christian friends these young people are getting training that will lift them to necessary competence.

The whole atmosphere of the school is one of happiness, and our Church can be grateful that it has such an institution and that its character justifies further advance on the same lines.

Chelsea, Que., Nov., '08.

The London Globe, discussing Canadian emigration, says it is mainly the Scot who makes Canada, for the energetic Scot takes to pioneering as the west countryman takes to loafing.

Rev. Dr. Oswald Dykes, Emeritus principal of Westminster College, and president-elect of the forthcoming Pan-Presbyterian Council, who completes the fiftieth year of his ministry in May, 1909, is a native of Port-Glasgow, where he was born in 1835.

HAMILTON NOTES.

The reports presented at the first annual meeting of St. Giles' Church showed a healthy state of affairs, and most encouraging prospects.

The receipts amounted to \$1,367.13, with a balance on hand of \$22.36. The Sunday school membership is 150.

The membership of St. John's Church (Rev. John Young, pastor) is now 580. The receipts were \$8,068.20, an increase of \$1,203.05 over the previous year. The Sunday school roll has 290 names.

There was a large attendance at the 28th annual meeting of Erskine Church, Mr. I. O. McIntosh in the chair. A membership of 773 was reported by the session. The receipts were \$4,648.72, with disbursements to an equal amount. The following were elected to the Board of Management; Messrs. G. Slidders, Dr. Anderson, A. M. Souter and Robert Lowrie.

St. Paul's congregation had a good year. The membership is now 740, and the total ordinary revenues amounted to \$7,440.40. There were on the Sunday school roll 64 teachers and officers, and 300 scholars at the beginning of 1908. At the close there were 65 teachers and officers and 317 scholars. The average attendance was 45 teachers and 200 scholars. Twelve scholars joined the church. It should be noted that the total receipts from all sources amounted to \$16,938.34.

The annual meeting of Westminster Church called forth a full attendance. The session reported a membership of 131. Testimony was born to the deep interest taken by the pastor, ev. J. R. Van Wyck, in the erection of the new building, of which the congregation is justly proud. The receipts amounted to \$1,389.36, with disbursements which left a balance on hand of \$29.25. A motion was carried endorsing the campaign for the reduction of hotel licenses to not more than 50.

The first annual meeting of the Central Church in the new building was a very happy one in every respect. Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. W. H. Sedgewick, assistant pastor, and thereafter Mr. R. K. Hope was called to the chair. The session report indicated a membership of 621, a decrease of 20 owing to the removal of several families to St. Giles. The ordinary receipts for 1908 amounted to \$10,659.92, with estimated disbursements for the current year of \$13,700. The board of management states that \$200.00 per Sabbath is the least amount that should be aimed at, and recommend the annual adoption of the week-offering by envelope system. Hon. J. M. Gibson, now Lt.-Governor of Ontario, retires from the board after many years services.

RENEW YOUR YOUTH.

Never before has the struggle for social and commercial success been so keen as in our own day, and to the victor and the vanquished alike comes a time when nerves and body cry for rest. Nature and science have combined to produce an environment where tired men and women may renew their youth. On the main line of the Grand Trunk Railway System, at St. Catharines, Ontario, is situated "The Welland," where the ills of life are alleviated by bathing in the Saline Springs of the "St. Catharines Well," under proper medical supervision and attendance. Apply to 130 St. James street, Montreal, for booklet and further information.

But nothing is more real than what is spiritual, as approaching nearest to the nature of all reality—namely, God Himself.—Thomas Boston.

TORONTO.

Rev. R. E. Knowles, of Knox, Galt, is announced to lecture in Victoria Church on the evening of Feb. 1.

Erskine Church membership is now 680. The missionary givings were \$3,388, an increase of \$200. All the societies showed an increase in the offerings.

The membership at St. Mark's showed a slight increase now being 279. Receipts amounted to \$3,400. A \$7,000 site for a new church has been donated the congregation.

Receipts of St. Paul's for general purposes were \$5,794.42. Contributions to missionary purposes totaled \$2,199.92. Rev. G. R. Fasken's salary was increased from \$1,800 to \$2,000.

The membership of the Central is now 720, and over \$6,000 was raised for missions. The total receipts amounted to \$14,076.79. A tablet will be erected to the memory of the late Mrs. Mary Bayne Motavish.

There was an increase of 78 at College Street Church, bringing the roll up to 1,276. The ordinary receipts were \$6,930; including mission funds, etc., the total income was \$13,560. Dr. Gilroy is to have an assistant at an early date.

Eglinton congregation continues to make progress. Membership 163, an addition of 65 during the past year. The income from all quarters amounted to \$1,814.09. The salary of the minister, Rev. W. G. Back, was increased from \$1,200 to \$1,400.

At Fern avenue the receipts were \$3,334.94, leaving a balance after paying liabilities of \$78.82. The growth of the congregation has been such as to render necessary a new church, and it has been decided to go on with a new building to cost \$40,000.

St. Giles has now a membership of 575, and the total receipts were \$7,053, of which \$1,044 was for missions. All liabilities were met and a considerable amount paid off the church mortgage debt. It was decided to adopt in its entirety the envelope system of giving.

Receipts at old St. Andrew's for the general account amounted to \$11,231.44 and the expenditure \$8,636.44. Contributions from all sources towards the "schemes account" amounted to \$8,000 for ten months. The following managers were elected for three-year terms: Joseph Oliver, Mayor of Toronto, J. H. Macabe and Dr. F. C. Husband.

The pastor, Rev. W. H. Andrews, presided at the annual meeting of Queen Street East church, at which there was a large attendance. The receipts totalled \$3,851, with a credit balance of \$139.22. Church membership 376, an increase of 66 over the previous year. A new school building seating 800 was erected during the year, while the church was enlarged to double its former capacity.

The receipts of Kew Beach congregation amounted to \$4,247. The amount raised for missions amounted to \$925, a large increase over previous years. The following were chosen on the Board of Management: H. Kennedy, D. Carlyle, J. S. White, John J. Lowden, H. C. Nasmith and D. Miller. The salary of the minister Rev. Mr. Black, was increased by \$200, while a resolution to devote \$200 towards paid singers was also adopted.

St. John's has come to be regarded as one of the foremost missionary churches in the Canadian Presbyterian Church. Two members are on the way to India. Seven other members are already in the field. The missionary givings increased from \$2,400 to \$2,730. The weekly collections increased from \$4,370 to \$5,582, and the total receipts from all sources were \$13,707, as against \$8,309. The membership is now 740. A pipe organ is to be installed.