

we are constrained to regard the McAll Mission in France as something without a precedent in the history of modern missions.

T. H.

Paris, 25th April, 1882.

SABBATH SCHOOL CONFERENCE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

The Presbytery of Kingston having invited the superintendents and teachers of the Sabbath schools within their bounds to meet with them, a Conference was held in St. Andrew's Hall, Kingston, on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 30th and 31st May. A. F. Wood, Esq., of Madoc, was appointed president. On Tuesday evening there was a large attendance of ministers, teachers, and the general public. Every session was opened with singing, reading Scripture, and prayer. Mr. Wood, in commencing the proceedings, thanked the members of Conference for the honour they had conferred upon him, and offered a few suggestions as to the discussions, and the manner and spirit thereof, and expressed the hope that they would enjoy the Divine favour during Conference, and that many valuable results might flow from their meetings. The Rev. F. McCuaig read the opening address, upon "The Sabbath School as a Teaching Institution," in which he considered the teaching, the theme and the teacher. Rev. H. Gracey, of Gananoque, spoke upon "System of Lessons." Mr. N. D. McArthur, of St. Andrew's S. S., Belleville, upon "Assembly's Course of Study for Teachers and Teachers' Meetings;" and Rev. Dr. Smith, of Kingston, upon "How to secure Attention of Class and Maintain Discipline." Rev. D. Mitchell, of Belleville, commenced the discussion. He had valued the International Series as a beginning in the right direction, but felt the advantage of studying the Gospel of Mark consecutively, without leaping over long passages. Rev. A. Wilson, Mr. A. G. Northrup, Rev. M. W. McLean, and a number of brethren took part, and gave many valuable suggestions, and the Chairman now and again uttered a bright scintillation that gave life to the discussion.

On Wednesday morning the following papers were submitted: "Lesson Helps and How to Use Them," by Mr. MacAlister, Kingston, and "The Catechism in the Sabbath School," by Rev. W. Coulthard, of Picton. The subject of "Hymn Books and Singing in the Sabbath School" was to have been presented, but in the absence of the speaker, it was included in the discussion which followed. A great many spoke upon the value of the Catechism. While substantial agreement marked the speakers, there was some difference of opinion as to the manner in which the Catechism should be taught, some taking the ground that it ought to be carefully expounded, and others that it should be committed to memory in the first instance; that then it would prove a help all through life, as its meanings were gradually disclosed, and that in all cases it would develop the reasoning faculties.

On Wednesday afternoon, Mrs. R. Thompson, teacher of the infant class in St. Andrew's, Kingston, read an admirable paper upon "Infant Classes." Mr. W. C. Craig, of the same, gave a short but instructive essay upon "Libraries: How to make them Effective Aids in Sabbath School Work;" and Mr. A. G. Northrup, of John Street Sabbath School, Belleville, submitted a most suggestive paper upon "Rewards and Entertainments." Mr. Northrup took the negative side upon this question, and stated that he was able to say he had been a quarter of a century superintendent, and had demonstrated that a school could be carried on without resort to doubtful expedients. The speakers who followed expressed their obligation to the author of these papers. Mr. Mitchell, in speaking of the grading of classes, asked for an expression of opinion upon this subject. The chairman was strongly in favour of the plan of grading. Mr. McLean carried out the principle as far as practicable. Revs. A. Wilson and Cumberland were decidedly against it, but Mr. Wood showed that the same objections might be urged against depleting the infant class to make up the other classes. A consensus of opinion showed itself as to "Rewards and Entertainments," the feeling being that while it was inexpedient to resort to these to draw children, yet a good annual entertainment might be held in the schools, at which interesting reports should be submitted, and singing and reading be agreeably interspersed.

It rained in torrents in the evening, on account of which the meeting was not so large as it would have been; still the Hall was two-thirds full. Rev. D.

Mitchell, of Belleville, delivered an address upon "The Relation of the Home to the Sabbath School;" Rev. W. M. McLean, of the same, another address upon "The Relation of the Sabbath School to the Session and Congregation;" and in the absence of Rev. Principal Grant, a paper he had left was read by Rev. Mr. Mitchell upon "How to Retain Advanced Pupils in the Sabbath School, and lead them into the Church." These papers and many others could well be published in full, had we space. They drew forth a hearty expression of opinion upon the various topics. Resolutions were afterwards agreed to, recommending that the Catechism should be used by teachers of other than infant classes; that in these the Children's Catechism should be employed; that Teachers' meetings should be established where they are not now existent; that parents should encourage teachers in every way, but especially by seeing that the lessons are learned at home, and inculcating respectful obedience; and that due attention be given by Sessions to the matter of keeping young men in the school, and interesting them in the lessons. After votes of thanks to the chairman and others, and to the railway and steam-boat companies for reduced fares, the Conference terminated with the L. M. Doxology and the Benediction.

NOTES FROM THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

YARMOUTH, N.S.

Yarmouth is the largest town in Nova Scotia, is the county town for Yarmouth county, and has a population of about 5,000 inhabitants. It contains many very handsome residences and a corresponding number of well-appointed stores,—rather better than are to be found in similar places. Although rather difficult to reach, the town has done a very large business in the past, and notwithstanding the comparative failure of its chief industry (ship building), there remains considerable wealth, which no doubt in course of time will be directed to other channels. As yet the National Policy has not done much for Yarmouth, but it is to be hoped that this important town will soon share in the general prosperity which is so noticeable in other and less wealthy places.

Yarmouth is rather behind the age in

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with the outside world. At best the means of travel is slow, but at times it is interrupted altogether. When things are in a normal condition, Yarmouth can be reached by boat three days in the week from Halifax or St. John to Digby; thence by the Western Counties Railway, which, by the way, is not the best sample of railway administration that is to be met with. I cannot say that I saw the conductor jump off the train and clear the track of steers; but I heard that such feats have been accomplished while the train was in motion!

There is a gaol and there is a court-house here, but they occupy different situations on the same street. The former is a strong and substantial brick building, but the internal arrangements are such that if the inmates don't like the treatment they take French leave; as was the case lately, when four prisoners became dissatisfied and left their quarters without saying "good-bye!" During the evening I heard some remarks on the affair in the hotel, and the conclusion was arrived at that the county was saved so much expense for board. Your correspondent concurred in this conclusion.

Outsiders are apt to think that

ALL NOVA SCOTIA IS SCOTCH.

Well, there is a very large proportion of its inhabitants either Scotch or of Scotch descent; but Yarmouth would seem to be an exception to this rule. Scotch and Irish are certainly in a minority here, there being very few original families of either in proportion to the total population. The large majority of the inhabitants, I fancy, are of American extraction, the tall, spare build and the contour of their faces giving unmistakable indications of this fact.

For nearly a dozen years no licenses for the sale of liquors have been issued, and although there is no Scott Act in existence,

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largely prevail. During a week's residence I neither heard of nor saw liquors bought or sold. Whatever is the nature of the law in force, the citizens seem to respect it; and, indeed, without some such feeling of respect the law cannot be enforced anywhere.

Yarmouth is well supplied with churches, of which there are nine altogether, some of them handsome buildings and wearing high-sounding names. The Baptists are in a considerable majority, having three places of worship. The Methodists and the Anglican Episcopalians come next, the latter having a beautiful brick church. Presbyterianism, established here over forty years, has a good footing; and the church, for style and comfort, has very few superiors in the Province.

The Rev. John Ross was the first minister, and very soon after his settlement set about building a church, and on the 29th September, 1840, in presence of the Halifax Presbytery in connection with the Church of Scotland, the foundation stone was laid. The services on the occasion were conducted by the Rev. Messrs. Wishart, Martin and the pastor, Mr. Ross. On the 8th August, 1841, the church was opened for public worship, and named "St. John's Church," on which occasion the services were conducted by the pastor, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Wishart. The sermon was preached by Rev. Mr. Ross, who took for his text 2 Chron. vii. 1-3.

The next minister was the Rev. George Christie, who was ordained on the 29th July, 1849, and who laboured with much acceptance and success for over a quarter of a century, and who is still remembered with affection and respect. Mr. Christie has given one son to the service of the Church—a devoted missionary in Trinidad.

The next minister was the Rev. Mr. Robinson, a native of Scotland, who was inducted December, 1878, but who about a month ago resigned his charge, and at present the congregation is without a stated pastor.

The services on Sabbath were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Paterson, of New Glasgow, who preached two able discourses. There is also an interesting Sabbath school, well looked after by the elders and members of the congregation. The superintendent is Mr. Ewan, whose family was connected with St. James' Square Church, Toronto; and the librarian is Mr. Dodds, who is a native of Scotland, and whose early religious training has borne good fruit in the land of his adoption.

About seven years ago, the congregation, not satisfied with the old church, resolved to rebuild, and have succeeded in erecting a church which is at once a credit to the congregation and an ornament to the place. With the speedy settlement of a suitable pastor, and the increasing energy of the people, it is to be hoped that this congregation will enter on a career of uninterrupted prosperity.

Before closing let me say, for the benefit of strangers and others visiting this pretty town, that the American House, lately renovated and refurnished throughout, is a first-class hotel in every respect, and deserving of public patronage. K.

May 20th, 1882.

THE PRESBYTERY OF OWEN SOUND AND SUSTENTATION VS. SUPPLEMENT.

MR EDITOR,—In the minutes of the Owen Sound Presbytery published in your issue of the 11th inst, there appears a statement to the effect that, as regards the remit on "Sustentation vs. Supplement," the Presbytery agreed *not to express any opinion*. This statement is misleading, and requires a word or two of explanation. The following are the real facts.

At the January meeting of Presbytery it was agreed that the remit be considered at the next regular meeting in March, and a committee was appointed to prepare the matter for the Presbytery. This committee submitted a report at the March meeting, recommending by a majority that the Presbytery decide in favour of *Supplement*; but after careful deliberation, the Presbytery, by a majority of *two* (some say it was really larger), decided in favour of the *rival scheme*. No report of this meeting appeared in any paper, though it is usual to furnish an account of our meetings to the Owen Sound papers, the "Record," and THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

The Presbytery met again on the 25th of April. At this meeting it so happened that those who had voted at the March meeting for Supplement were out in full force, whereas all the others were absent (two of them certainly through sickness) excepting *two*. One of these was found willing to give notice of a motion for reconsideration of the remit, which he accordingly did at one sederunt, and the matter was taken up and speedily disposed of in the manner indicated in