

vance. The attendance on ordinances has increased, and large audiences fill the capacious building at morning and evening service. The pastor possesses the happy faculty of educating the working capacity of the people, old and young. The various organizations of the Church are in a prosperous and flourishing condition. Missionary zeal, both in contributions and actual service, has been greatly quickened, Sabbath school work has been extended, contributions for all purposes have been largely increased, and the membership of the Church has been greatly augmented, as the following statement shows. Total number of communicants, May 20, 1886, 469; since then received, on profession of faith, 54, by certificate, 104, total accessions since May 20, 1886, 158, removals, May 20 to date, 20, deaths, May 20 to date, 6, total losses since May 20, 26; net increase of membership during the year, 132; total communicants at present, 601. Activity, zeal, devotedness, high spirituality and rare and discriminating tact have secured for Dr. Kellogg, the affectionate esteem of an attached congregation.

#### WINNIPEG—II.

The coming meeting of the General Assembly was much talked of in Presbyterian circles, and steps were being taken to arrange for the entertainment of the delegates during the sittings. Professor Bryce is Convener of the General Committee, and any one who is aware of the learned professor's capacity for work knows that it could not be in better hands. It is not too much to say that the Assembly will be greeted with a *ced mille falthe*, and in Knox Church it will find suitable accommodation.

The gentleman prominently before the Church for the Moderatorship bears a name honoured in Presbyterian history. Should the choice fall on him, he will bring to the discharge of the duties of the chair remarkable ability, ripe experience, kindness of heart, and an affability and suavity of manner rarely to be met with. By his abundant labours during the course of a long ministry he has placed the Church under deep obligations.

Presbyterianism has taken a firm hold in Manitoba and the Territories—a sufficient proof, were it needed, that the system is, above all others, well adapted to the wants of a new country, though its origin can be traced to Apostolic times. In order to further and extend the kingdom of Christ, neither novelty nor sensation is necessary; only the faithful preaching of that Gospel, of which it is said, when heard on one occasion, "that there was great joy in that city."

It is somewhat remarkable that, of the candidates in thirty-five Manitoba constituencies in the past Provincial elections, twenty-two were Presbyterians; and of the eleven candidates for the Dominion Parliament, five belonged to the same denomination.

The congregations in Winnipeg are large and respectable, and with two such ministers as Rev. Messrs. Gordon and Pitblado, the cause of Presbyterianism is safe in Winnipeg, which in reality means that it is safe and secure throughout the great North-West.

St. Andrew's Church congregation still worship in Selkirk Hall, which has lately undergone extensive repairs, and is about the best substitute for a Church I ever saw. There was a large congregation present, and on the occasion the pastor (Rev. C. B. Pitblado) delivered a telling discourse.

Knox Church congregation presented a good appearance on Sunday, the large, handsome church being well filled with an attentive audience. The musical portion of the service was well rendered and the discourse of the pastor, on "Witnesses for Christ," was calculated not only to edify the body of Christ, but to stir up those who may be said to be at *ease* in Zion.

The Sabbath school is held in Knox Church Hall. Mrs. D. M. Gordon and Mrs. Fisher, formerly of Stratford, are among the teachers.

The wave of evangelistic effort seems to have spread from Halifax westward. It had reached Winnipeg, and extended as far as Brandon, where the Rev. Mr. Douglas had a most blessed time, resulting in a large addition to the membership. Brother Douglas evidently has lost none of his old-time power, and is most effectively sustaining our cause in that important field, and that too in the face of many difficulties.

As was to be expected, Manitoba College, under the able administration of Principal King, is doing splen-

did work, and will far more than repay all the labour and money expended. Even the services which the students render in supplying vacancies during the college session are worthy of all praise.

Emerson, the "gateway city," which, although suffering financially from the blighting results of the "boom," and the chilling effects of floods, remains steadfast in the Presbyterian faith, and under the pastorate of the Rev. Mr. Quinn, is enjoying solid and steady growth. Mr. Quinn is not only a sound Presbyterian, but is sound on temperance principles, which with characteristic force he is pushing in the new country.

On the return journey, we had a pleasant stop at Fort William and Port Arthur, only a few miles distant. Here a pleasant and profitable Sunday was spent, by listening to two excellent discourses by Rev. Robert Nairn, who is labouring with zeal and devotedness in that field.

The cause is making steady headway, and Mr. Nairn has the sympathy and support of an affectionate people. This congregation was established by the late Rev. Mr. McKerracher, and with it is coupled Oliver Station, now supplied by Rev. Mr. Ross. It promises to be an important point in the near future. Mr. Kirkland, the manager of the Beaver Mines, secures the expenses of the missionary.

#### PORT ARTHUR.

This is one of the most important towns on the C. P. R., and has a population of about 3,000. It is beautifully situated, and, besides many other good buildings, has a first class hotel.

#### ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

was organized in 1874, by the late Rev. Mr. McKerracher, whose self-denying labours are still fresh in the memories of the people. Mr. McKerracher was succeeded by Rev. W. Herald, formerly of Dundas, who vacated the charge in 1886, and was succeeded by the present pastor (Rev. James Pringle, formerly of Georgetown).

The church is a new and handsome edifice, and cost about \$10,000. It is neatly finished inside, and has all the appearance of comfort and convenience.

There are 120 families connected with the congregation, and a membership of ninety. One of the prominent elders is Dr. Snellie, a brother-in-law of the Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, Toronto.

The pastor (Mr. Pringle) is a native of Prince Edward Island and a graduate of Morrin College. He was called from Georgetown, Ont., to Kildonan, Man., and in 1886 was installed pastor of his present charge.

The communion plates used in this church are of solid silver, and were manufactured from the first fruits of the Rabbit Mountain Mines, and presented to the congregation by Captain McFee, and like the doctrines preached in this pulpit, they have the "right ring."

#### STEADY PROGRESS.

Whilst the other Evangelical denominations have all done well, Presbyterianism has made steady progress, and, with continued liberality on the part of the Church, the next five years will accomplish still greater results.

In 1871 there were nine congregations and mission stations; now there are 351. There were no Sabbath schools in that year; at present there are 145. We have now eighty-seven churches and twenty manse.

The sons of our ministers, elders, merchants and the very flower of our yeoman farmers are going there, and finding homes in that distant region, and whilst they are making such exertions—laudable in their place—to secure the earthly treasure, let the Church give them an opportunity of obtaining the pearl of great price.

#### COMBINED MISSIONARY EFFORT.

I talked to a number of ministers on this question, and whilst a good many were slow to give an opinion, a number of our younger men are opposed to making any change. Probably it is well for each denomination to be represented.

The whole subject is surrounded with serious difficulties. Although it may seem somewhat strange, still the fact remains that a large number of our Presbyterian people do not care to listen to the Gospel as supplied by the Methodist Church, but no doubt there are a great many in all congregations who do not care where they go on Sunday, supposing they can pass an hour pleasantly.

#### OTHER DENOMINATIONS

are faithfully labouring in their respective spheres. And so far, Judah and Ephraim do not seem to vex each other; the only seeming rivalry is to provoke one another to love and good works. In many cases, when the Presbyterian minister or missionary is obliged to leave for a Sunday, his place is filled often at inconvenience by the Methodist or Baptist brother, a fact which speaks well for the good feeling that exists. K.

April, 1887.

#### MISSIONARY CHURCH OF BELGIUM.

##### FIFTY YEARS OF EVANGELIZATION.

The Missionary Church of Belgium celebrates this year her jubilee. Belgium was always, and is at the present time, one of the strongholds of Roman Catholicism. Fifty years ago no effort whatever had been made for spreading the Gospel of salvation among the populations, which were, at that time, entirely held under the control of the Roman Catholic clergy.

Some seventy years ago a revival of religion took place among Protestants in France and Switzerland, and, as a consequence, several evangelical societies were formed for the purpose of carrying the Gospel to regions where it was entirely unknown; Belgium had its share in the movement.

The British and Foreign Bible Society having sent in 1834 an agent to Brussels, that godly man, Mr. W. P. Eddy (now a retired minister in London), soon felt the need of sending, along with the Bible, colporteurs, preachers and evangelists. To that effect, in 1837, a small committee, composed of a few foreign gentlemen, was formed in Brussels. This was the beginning of the Belgium Evangelical Society, which in later years became the Missionary Church of Belgium. That Church, composed almost entirely of former Roman Catholics, will (D.V.) commemorate her fiftieth year of existence at her annual Synod, to be held in Brussels next July. She will then solemnly render thanks to God for the blessings bestowed on her labours during this lapse of time.

The work was organized and developed by the Rev. Leonard Anet, who was for more than forty years the general secretary. He died two years ago, being therefore deprived of the joy of seeing the present jubilee. His son, the Rev. Kennedy Anet, is now at the head of the work.

Belgium is not a large country, its population scarcely amounts to 5,000,000, but its territory is an important point in the warfare against the popish empire. Some parts only of the country are really accessible to evangelization, agricultural districts and numerous towns being still maintained under the firm grasp of the priesthood. The Evangelical Society has, at the present time, but twenty-seven Churches and stations. This may be counted little, but these Churches are as so many centres from which the light of the Gospel truth spreads its rays far around. They include fifty-six annexes, and the Gospel is regularly preached in eighty-three different places. In about sixty other places the work is carried on by means of occasional meetings, open-air preaching and house to house visitations. Colportage circulates the Scriptures, and prepares the soil in a great many other localities.

Belgium has a Flemish and a Walloon population, and, consequently, the Gospel has to be preached in two languages, Dutch and French. The Flemish stations are Antwerp, Brussels, Ghent and Ostend.

Most of the congregations are very active. Seven thousand meetings are held during the year, the pastors and evangelists being helped in their labours by the members of the Churches. Some are holding meetings, others in great numbers visit Roman Catholic families, distribute tracts and daily bear witness of their faith among relations, neighbours, fellow-workmen, and so help most effectively to the progress of the work.

The influence of the Gospel spreads itself far beyond the circle of the disciples and converts gathered into and around the Protestant congregations. Thousands of persons in the country have more than once heard the glad tidings. They read tracts or possess even the Holy Scriptures, which are now found in a great many houses. Many who do not actually join the Protestant Churches confess that if they keep aloof it is often through fear of being molested, or be-