

prospects for lodgings for the night rather dark; however, there are pleasures amid the wastes. Any house is a boarding-house, or rather inn, to the minister—no matter to what Church the inmates may belong, they receive me with open arms. I have visited Protestants of all denominations, and even Catholics, and have been received with apparent gladness.

"The crops last year were a comparative failure in the new settlements here, owing to the fact that the people coming in the spring could not put them in any good order, the spring itself being late, and the frost coming early in the fall, killed a good deal of the wheat. For these reasons the people have to purchase flour from the east, which works against them considerably. They are, however, very hopeful, and population keeps flowing in all the time. I am the only ordained Protestant minister in all these parts, and I am happy to say that a very large proportion of the people are Presbyterians. Mr. A McDonald, of Fort Ellice, Hudson's Bay factor, has shewn himself very kind, though there are not many settlers as yet around the Fort. I saw a gentleman from Qu'Appelle, a point one hundred and twenty miles west of Fort Ellice, who told me that they wanted a Protestant missionary there badly. He says there are about eight hundred people in that part; half of them are Roman Catholics, and have several priests, but not a Protestant clergyman of any denomination, except a passing missionary once a year. Going up west, Mr. McLean, the chief factor of the Hudson Bay post there, is a Presbyterian, and very anxious to get a missionary for that point. I promised to pay them a visit if I could get any one to take my work for a month. The people in these parts are far above the average for intelligence and education. Some are from the older provinces, and some from Scotland, Ireland, and England. Once in three weeks is as often as I can be at any point. I have to deposit my supplies for the horse at different points. Food in the shape of grain is very scarce, selling in the village at \$1.25 per bushel. Wheat is \$1.75 per bushel, and flour \$5.50 per cwt. All the houses are built of logs, and mostly one room, with partitions made of carpets, quilts, calico, or anything. However, the people are kind and hearty and glad to see us, and we get along. There is not much chance for study, and not much time even if we had a chance. I spend at the very least half the days on the roads, besides the house-to-house travel. Under the present policy of reserving odd sections, houses here, even in settled neighbourhoods, are at least a mile apart. We have no church erection here yet, and shall not likely have for a year. The settlers have too much work to do as yet to build churches. I hope, however, to be able to report progress on this subject next year, and trust that the good people in the east will not tire of us for a while. We hope to be able to walk alone by and by.

DR. MACKAY'S VISIT TO HAMILTON.

MR. EDITOR,—It may safely be stated that Hamilton has rarely, if ever, been visited by one who received a more cordial welcome, was listened to with deeper interest, and carried away with him the best wishes of a larger number of citizens, than our esteemed missionary, Dr. Mackay. He came to us on Saturday the 19th inst. and left on the Wednesday following. His coming had been duly prepared for, by the Presbyterian ministers of the city conferring together and arranging times and places of meeting, having reference in their appointments, to the importance of giving all the Presbyterians of the city, and as many others as possible, an opportunity of hearing Dr. Mackay as often as practicable. These meetings had been looked forward to by not a few with prayerful interest; but on the part of our people generally, no special enthusiasm had been manifested. But no sooner had the first audience that assembled heard the beginning of the missionary's thrilling narrative, told in his peculiarly earnest and eloquent way, than an interest was awakened which made all the meetings which followed, occasions long to be remembered, not simply because of the crowds which thronged to hear, and the liberal responses elicited, but because of the deep and solemn impressions produced. The people of the places Dr. Mackay is still to visit, should be diligent in preparing their hearts for realizing to the full the privilege that awaits them—not merely the privilege of listening to a narrative as full of thrilling interest as any that was ever related by

the apostles of early times, but the privilege of having their faith strengthened by the extraordinary testimony which one who claims to be only a humble follower of the Lord Jesus, is able to bear to God's faithfulness, when His promises are put to the proof with childlike boldness and simplicity.

To the Presbyterians of Hamilton it is comparatively gratifying—that the contributions at the various services held here have been the most encouraging responses Dr. Mackay has yet met with in his tour through the country. Yet, we feel that our offerings have been very small, compared with the self-sacrificing devotion of the missionary, and above all, when compared with the claim the Master Himself has upon us. The aggregate of the collections taken up at the five meetings held in Hamilton, is a little over \$625, with the earnest hope that it may yet be increased to \$1,000.

Nothing could be more touching than to hear Dr. Mackay express his disappointment that after having reluctantly left his chosen work, and come all the way from Formosa to do the work he is at present engaged in, the people of Canada, though attending the meetings in large numbers and with manifestations of the most appreciative interest, have failed to respond with such liberality as he had expected, in view of the way in which the Lord has blessed the work in Formosa. It was with sad regret we heard our esteemed missionary give utterance to this feeling of disappointment, adding, at the same time, that he felt it to be his duty to resolve solemnly, never again to visit Canada, but to confine his labours henceforward to his beloved Formosa. It is not surprising that one who has given himself to the Lord's work with such Apostolic, nay, Christ-like zeal and singleness of purpose, should be impatient of manifestations of interest which less devoted souls regard as gratifying, and which are truly gratifying; for, apart altogether from immediate results, no one can listen to Dr. Mackay's instructive and thrilling addresses without feeling that seed is being sown which will bear blessed fruit many days hence.

But may we not hope that before Dr. Mackay leaves us again to resume his arduous labours as our missionary in Formosa, the heart of the Presbyterian Church in Canada will be so touched with a sense of the claim which the heathen world has upon us—the name of Christ, that both wealthy members of our churches, and our people generally, will find ways of greatly increasing the contributions which have already been offered in response to our missionary's earnest, yet most unobtrusive appeals. May this be the case to such a degree as to gladden our missionary's heart, that he will be led to reverse his decision. And may he be spared and strengthened, not only to have the joy of resuming his chosen work in Formosa, but the additional joy of revisiting his native Canada in future years, to again refresh ten thousand praying hearts by the recital of still grander triumphs won through the grace and power of our common Lord.

Hamilton, Feb. 24th, 1881.

R. J. LAIDLAW.

THE REVIVAL IN PETERBORO'.

After a fortnight spent amid the scenes of revival in Peterboro', a few impressions and incidents may be of interest to your readers. There is no room to doubt that this place has received a remarkable outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Nothing equal to it has ever been experienced in Peterboro' or witnessed elsewhere by any with whom I have conversed. Since Mr. Hammond's departure, the united meetings have been continued alternately two nights at a time in the two largest churches in town, the Presbyterian and Methodist, the Wednesdays and Sabbaths being reserved for the usual denominational services, though these were of unusual life and interest. The daily praise and prayer meeting, in like manner, alternated between the Baptist and Bible Christian Churches. These meetings have all been scenes of unity, fellowship, unction and fervour, as delightful as remarkable. Requests for prayer, written and verbal, abound, varied by thanksgiving for answers received, reports from workers in town and country, Bible-readings, etc. The marvelous doings of our covenant God are related with joy and praise. The occurrence of deferred missionary and other meetings next week seems likely to interrupt the continuity of the town meetings, which is much regretted by many, as the numbers and interest shew little abatement, and anxious inquirers still abound. But in the country districts to which

the work has spread, the interest seems to be nightly increasing. Keene, Springville, L. refield, and other points are daily visited by bands of workers, sometimes exceeding twenty in number. Then, in the intervals between these meetings, the work goes on quietly, but often with great power, in the homes and workshops of the people, and even in the public schools and on the streets, among the groups at the corner, or in the vehicles swiftly flitting to and fro. Then fancy such a scene as this in the office of an architect—five professional gentlemen engaged in discussing the subject of assurance. Again, not far off, in a lawyer's office, prayer is being offered for and with a troubled soul. Considerably over a thousand names have been put upon the covenant roll, beside which many without signing it, have professed to find the Saviour. The work amongst

THE YOUNG

has been remarkable, both for its extent and interest. Last Saturday a very delightful scene was witnessed, when a children's meeting was held. About 250 were present, and when at the close, all who had found Christ were asked to stand up, all but eight or ten arose, and some of these with much emotion professed to give their hearts to the Saviour in the inquiry meeting which followed. It was a sight never to be forgotten, to see the boys trying to help each other to a knowledge of the truth. Much care is taken to secure intelligent acquaintance with the truth before making any public profession, and usually with gratifying results. For example, one of our elders sent for his twelve-year-old son, from home at school, that he might get the benefit of the meetings, and ere long the dear boy gladdened his parents by declaring a hope in Christ. A covenant card was put into his hand with the caution not to sign till clear about his acceptance of Christ. In a few days he left without saying more, but left behind the card, duly signed, with a note to his mother telling her he could no longer doubt his love for Jesus and interest in Him. Another clever little fellow of ten, at first was scornfully sceptical of the work, and called the boys a set of fools for standing up and saying they were converted when he knew they were as wicked as ever. He hardened his heart against the influences pressing upon him, and told his mother she might pray for him, but he was so wicked there was no use of his doing it. He declined to continue attendance at the meetings till his father urged it, and he slipped away alone, and not long after came to tell his parents of a great change which had come over him. Formerly he "had Christ in the head," now he "had Him in the heart," and in many ways he shewed the reality of the change, especially in his eagerness to help others. In the inquiry meeting he is usually aided by a little son of the late devoted McKenzie of Almonte, who has a much better knowledge of Scripture. Thus he turns to him, "Robert, where is that verse that begins so and so?" When found and read, he returns eagerly to the subject of his anxiety, exclaiming, "There now, Willie, don't you see, you've not to wait for feeling, but to come to Jesus just as you are." Then he goes home to tell his mother—"Mamma, I do believe Willie Smith is in the Lord." Last Sabbath Bible-class and school were greatly larger than ever before. At the close a lady said to me, "I wish you would speak to that girl in black in my class; she is very anxious." I found her just waiting to be led to decision, and as I told her teacher the happy issue five minutes after, their tears of joy mingled together as the latter exclaimed, "Oh, thank God for that, I believe they are all now safe in the arms of Jesus." Another teacher, a young lawyer at the head of a large and varied business, who has nevertheless found time for constant attendance and work in town and country, sent in a request for thanksgiving, as the last of his scholars now, in answer to special prayer, had attained hope in Christ. Many others besides this gentleman have been finding the secret of their former leanness and the truth of the promise of fatness to the liberal soul. Office-bearers in the Church, who had never yet opened their mouths to witness for Christ or pray in public, have been finding utterance from a full heart. Ministers and others, after long and patient sowing of the seed are now reaping rich harvests. To describe this revival in one Scriptural sentence would be to quote the words, "When Zion travailed, she brought forth children."

WALTER M. ROOZE.

Feb. 25th, 1881.