

A GREAT MEETING.



FEW weeks ago, I went to the General Assembly of our church which met in London, Ontario, and tried to get something there for the young people.

1. I found that we have a London and its Thames in Canada, just as they have in England. Although our river is smaller, it is a great deal clearer and purer than old Father Thames; and while our London is so small that it would take four or five hundred of it to make up Old London, yet it has far more happiness and less care and sin and sorrow, in proportion to its size than has the larger London. So the first thing I got for the young is the wholesome lesson, that big things do not give happiness. People may live as useful and happy lives in a small house as in a large one. Humble lives are free from many of the cares and temptations of those that have greater wealth or higher place.

2. Though the Assembly was made up of over three hundred ministers and elders, and lasted for eight days, from the 12th to the 20th June, it was by no means a dull meeting. Old men sometimes seemed as if they were boys again, and grey heads as merry as when they were tow heads at school long ago, and so I learned a second thing for the young; that religion never gives anyone the blues, that if they are Christians they will be happy whether young or old and often happier as they get older.

3. The first night, after the opening sermon, came the roll call; and members of Assembly from Newfoundland to British Columbia, four thousand miles apart, and from all along between, answered to their names.

Here was a third thing for the young. What hosts of them there must be growing up in such a large Church. How much they can do as they grow up to make that Church as pure and good as she is great; and what a power our Church will be for good in the land and what a happy and prosperous country Canada will be, if all this glad young host give their lives to God.

4. On the second day of meeting the work of our Colleges, in Halifax, Quebec, Montreal, Kingston, Toronto, and Winnipeg, was talked about and planned for. As the 229 students for the ministry, now attending them will soon be passing out, their places must be filled by the boys of to-day, and here was a fourth thing for the boys, viz:

As the work of seeking to save men and women from sin and misery, is the greatest, grandest work in the world; and as that is the one thing the ministry should have in view: the strongest, manliest, and best, of the boys are wanted for that work.

5. On the evening of the second day, as one after another told of the great Home Mission work of our Church, of more than a thousand mission stations in new and scattered settlements in our own land, where there is no settled minister, and where students and missionaries are sent to preach; and how soon these settlements become wicked if there is no religious service, I found something more for the young.

If we wish our country to be Christian when it becomes older, these new settlements must be made Christian now when they are young.

So the young people of to-day must become Christian in their youth, if the men and women of a few years hence are to be the noble men and women that they may be and ought to be.

Another thing from that Home Mission work, is this:—How thankful the young should be that our Home Missionaries are doing so much to make our country a good one to live in, and how faithfully they should give and pray for the success of Home Missions.

6. There was a great meeting on Foreign Mission night. There were missionaries there from Trinidad, India, Formosa, and China; telling of the sad and hopeless lives of the heathen and what wonderful success the Gospel is having among them; and here was something more for the young:—

What a noble aim in life to give oneself to telling these poor people of Jesus who gave