

the meeting was good, and the collection, far in advance of former years, was very creditable in their circumstances.

This section of the country, and our work, has lost much in the death of the late Mr. A. McPherson, one of our most worthy colporteurs. Mr. McGuire is applying himself diligently to the settling up of affairs in the sub-branches which were chiefly under the control of Mr. McPherson. At an early date, as may be seen from accompanying documents, everything will be satisfactorily adjusted.

*Portage la Prairie* was our next place of meeting on the 22nd. This town, already applying for incorporation as a city, is about sixty miles west of Winnipeg, on the C.P.R.R., at the junction of the Portage and Westbourne R. R. While I was there active steps were being taken to make it the point of junction for another R. R. from the south. English capitalists have recently invested \$200,000 in real estate on the outskirts of the town, with the purpose, it is surmised, of making it a railroad point. However, the town's chief hope lies in its being situated in the midst of an agricultural belt thirteen miles wide and thirty long, rarely equalled for prairie beauty and fertility. Many of its public buildings would be a credit to any city. Its public school building lately completed at a cost of nearly \$30,000, is an honour to the Dominion. Within I found a large staff of teachers worthy of their work; on the roll were 500 as clear complexioned, bright eyed, beautiful children as are to be seen anywhere. In this town of 4000 people passing through a fiery financial ordeal, I was to organize, if possible, a branch of the Bible Society.

The arrangements for my coming had been carefully made in a joint meeting of all the pastors of the town. The Rev. Mr. Woodsworth, whose generous hospitality I enjoyed, was untiring in his attentions and introductions, the other ministers cordially co-operating with him. We met for our public meeting in the spacious and attractive hall in which the Methodists worship. Every pastor was present, all bearing some part in the service, the Rev. Mr. Bell, presiding till the organization of the branch was effected. The united choirs of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches rendered excellent service. After an address by your representative the branch was organized with unanimity and enthusiasm. Its officers and committee-men were well chosen. The Rev. Mr. Fortin will make an admirable President. Mr. Miller, Secretary, will put both heart and hand in his work to the satisfaction of everybody. Mr. Taylor, an enterprising young druggist from Picton, will work the Depository well. I was exceedingly pleased with all the arrangements made by this new branch. It gives every promise of health and usefulness. The collections and pledges exceeded my most sanguine expectations; they reached nearly \$100. At the close of the meeting arrangements were made by the Committee for the appointment of collectors, and the division of the town into districts for further canvass and collection.

*Brandon*, my next and last place of meeting, is on the C.P.R.R. about 130 miles west of Winnipeg. The Rev. Mr. Lawson, who has purchased to himself a good degree as a pioneer in this North-West during the last seven years, met me at the station, and by his overflowing hospitality, and in every other possible way, greatly aided me in my mission.

This city—for Brandon is a city—is situated on the beautiful banks of the Assiniboine, 700 miles from Winnipeg by the way of the river, and 300 miles from Fort Ellice farther up, the whole distance of 1000 miles being navigable for large steamers. Stretching away in every direction as far as the eye can reach are rolling prairie lands, broken on the south by the "Brandon Hills," and in other directions by stretches of wooded bluffs. The water is abundant and excellent. The drainage is perfect. Gravel pits of the best quality abound. In addition to the railroad, the situation has in its favour almost every natural advantage that a northern latitude could claim. The eye of enterprise was quick to see these advantages. Like Jonah's gourd the city