

Theological Education in Montreal.

BY PRINCIPAL MACVICAR, LL. D. D.

For the Review.

Montreal is a great centre of wealth, of commerce and business enterprise. It is a place of unique beauty in summer and winter. Tourists come from all parts to enjoy its bracing air, its Mountain Park and exhilarating winter sports. Of late it has made remarkable progress in secular education. Its Protestant Schools and High Schools and McGill University are justly the pride of citizens.

With equal propriety they cherish the same feeling regarding their Theological Colleges. There are four of them—The Presbyterian, the Wesleyan, the Congregational and the Diocesan, all clustered around the University with which they are affiliated. These live in peace and happy concord among themselves, teaching the same eternal verities from their different standpoints without any symptoms of sectarian bigotry or strife. They form a wholesome environment for "Old McGill," and their students, a goodly company, enjoy rare privileges.

Not only do they mingle freely among themselves but also with the thousand others attending lectures in the five Faculties of the University and preparing for different pursuits in after life. The Arts men, the "Theos," the "Meds," the "Vets," the lawyer and scientists of the future thus meet in the same class rooms, the same literary societies and on the same campus for invigorating recreation. This sort of intercourse is just as essential as the lectures of learned professors for the true physical, mental, moral, and spiritual development of young men. And it is certainly good for the ministers of religion to pass through such experiences during their novitiate, to rub against each other and come into practical contact with currents of thought that are potent in the outside world.

Indeed what forcibly impresses even a casual visitor to these seats of sacred learning is the practical progressive up-to-date manner in which all things are conducted. There is manifestly a happy blending of reverence for what is good and enduring in the past with enlightened faith in the present and the future.

The health and comfort of students are not overlooked any more than a fresh and stimulating curriculum. Our own Presbyterian College is in the van in these respects. Through the foresight and energy of those directing its affairs it secured the very best site in the city, and the buildings erected upon it by the munificence of Mr. David Morrice and others are not only massive and ornamental but complete in their appointments. The octagonal library and dining-room are gems; and the spacious Convocation Hall is used for all sorts of academic gatherings.

Theological thought and research both ancient and modern are well represented by the thirteen or fourteen thousand well chosen volumes in the library. And in close proximity to it the vastly larger "Peter Redpath Library," of McGill is accessible to all students. The two form an ideal place for original research in many directions. And this suggests what is of the greatest moment, viz., the results obtained by this fine equipment. "By their fruits ye shall know them." What the Church and what intending students who contemplate preparing for Church Service want to know is, are able and godly ministers of the Gospel being sent out from these halls? Are they warm-hearted, broad-minded, earnest, self-sacrificing and true to their divine commission? Are they men of patriotic spirit, who understand something of the world, as well as profound in Scripture analysis? Have they not only accumulated rich stores of knowledge but are they able also in a lucid, logical and convincing manner to deliver their message in the pure vernacular of the people whether English, French or Gaelic? Are they, withal, fired by unquenchable missionary zeal, and therefore ready to go anywhere on their Master's business?

The answers to these and similar questions are the best tests in the judgement of the people of what is being done in the class-rooms of our Colleges.

Looking over the positions held in Home and Foreign Mission fields, in pulpits, prominent and obscure, in centres of culture and refinement, and in places of unmistakable

rusticity, by the two hundred and fifty Alumni of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, its friends and directors may well congratulate themselves upon the results of the work of the last thirty years and feel inspired to press forward to still higher achievements.

Mission to Lumber Men.

BY REV. M. H. SCOTT, OF HULL.

For the Review.

This department of Home Mission Work has been prosecuted by the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa for the past fifteen years, and has had a wide measure of usefulness far beyond what might have been expected from its modest revenue. The Rev. Dr. Gordon, when minister of St. Andrew's, Ottawa, was the one in whose heart the work had its birth, and he was the first Convenor and Treasurer. The idea of this mission has been to supply good wholesome reading to the men in the lumber camps, and thus to keep them in loving touch with the great intellectual world from which for months in winter they are necessarily isolated. And the Mission has accomplished all that its founders hoped for. There are overwhelming testimonies as to the great improvement in the life of the lumber camps. This is due to several causes, not the least of which is the work of the Mission to Lumbermen. Thousands of voices from the great lone forest speak to us words of gratitude and encouragement. We are favored in this work in that we have ministers and missionaries of our Church at almost every point who are within reasonable reach of the lumber camps, and it is pleasing to see the willingness with which they undertake the work of visitation and distribution. If the minister is a young man he comes back from his trip glowing with health and enthusiasm and longing for the revolving seasons to send him forth again. As in previous years the seven Colporteurs of the Bible Society are carrying our literature this year. These are in every case men able to conduct religious exercises, and they also do the work year by year willingly and without any pecuniary reward. There are some fourteen of our ministers and missionaries helping on the work this year. A number of the lumber Kings of the Ottawa have always assisted financially, thus showing their steady appreciation of the work going on under their eye. Amongst these we might mention the Hon. Geo. Bryson, Mr. T. R. Booth and the Bronson & Weston Co. One will perhaps ask; "Are there any definite results from the work?" About two weeks ago the Rev. Mr. Doudiet, of Buckingham, who has been looking after the camps up the Lievre River, told me of a touching case of a Roman Catholic woman into whose hands some of our literature came, and was led into the light and died a triumphant death. We have in the City of Hull an interesting case of a man who was cook in a shanty last winter, and into whose hands one of our French Tracts was placed. From repeated conversations with him I have found him a most hopeful convert. It is no unusual thing for the books to be read in the shanties and then brought home to the family in the spring and treasured for years. I have met with these books both in Ottawa and Hull and away up amongst the Eardley and Templeton Mountains. Our Mission means war against "the vacant mind" and we have had victory in a difficult field.

Putting Second Things First.

REV. D. D. MCLEOD.

For the Review.

While there is much useful religious teaching imparted in the churches of our land, there is also some that is not of a kind to educate the people intelligently, upon moral questions.

The amount of religious instruction which the rising generation receives, either at home or in the Sunday school, is admitted to be neither thorough, nor extensive. The reading of a large number of the people is confined to the news papers of the day. While there is much instructive matter provided in these, and while they contribute an important part to the education of the people, yet they are not authorities on moral and religious questions.

It is not therefore matter of surprise, that we meet with much teaching on these subjects that has no foundation in scripture, and therefore no authority, but yet which meets