

## Church News

[All communications to this column ought to be sent to the Editor immediately after the occurrences to which they refer have taken place.]

### Montreal Notes.

From the sermons and speeches delivered in several of the Anglican Synods in Ontario recently, it is quite evident that some of their leaders are dissatisfied with the present educational system of the province, as affording no sufficient religious instruction, and are disposed to agitate for some change. In so far as they are aiming simply at some increase in the amount of that instruction or at some improvement in its quality, most Presbyterians will probably be disposed to agree with them. But in so far as they are aiming at the organization of denominational schools to be partly supported by grants from public monies, few Presbyterians will be disposed to show any sympathy with their idea. Apart from the well known common sense principles which have guided their policy in the past, they are disposed to learn lessons from the experience of others. The present situation in England is a valuable object lesson as to the impossibility of preventing friction between denominational or voluntary schools, and the public schools along side of them. It is instructive too, to observe that the case for the voluntary schools has proved to be so weak that the strongest government of the present generation has been wholly unable to carry through a measure to increase their privileges and strengthen their position. The experience of the dual system in Quebec ought also to be enough to serve as a warning to any other province against repeating the experiment. It is a system which has imposed needless burdens on the people, lowered the scale of teachers' salaries, degraded the standard of their qualification, increased the per centage of illiteracy beyond that of any other province and led many to leave the province altogether because of the impossibility of securing such advantages for their children, as are to be found everywhere else. One of the crying needs of the province in fact, at the present time is the abolition of this obsolete system, and the establishment of public national schools as the only ones recognized by law.

With regard to the matter of religious instruction, however, the method followed in the so-called Protestant schools, is one that might be advantageously adopted in Ontario, and would probably meet the views of many of the Anglican brethren who are now dissatisfied. No sectarian instruction is given whatever, and in order to keep to ground that is indisputably common to all Christians, the school studies in religion are practically confined to Bible history, both in the Old and New Testaments, and the practice seems to meet with the unqualified approval of all classes of the people, Anglicans included. At first sight this may seem to some a very inadequate presentation of religion. But as a matter of fact, it is not so. The history occupies a very large part of the Bible itself and many of its most important truths are conveyed through that history. So long as it is taught from the standpoint of the Bible itself, there need be no fear as to the kind of religious impression it will make upon the minds of most of the children, altogether aside from any dogmatizing on the part of the teacher. Even Roman Catholic children who attend Protestant schools in many cases take the religious instruction as well and find nothing to complain of in its character.

The Rev. Dr. Robert Campbell is spending his holidays at Cacouna, and supplying the pulpit of St. Andrew's Church there. He is at the same time taking advantage of the opportunity to study the flora of the South shore of the St. Lawrence, and he will probably before long give to the public another of those thorough going monographs on local floras, which have already made his name well known in the scientific world. It is probably not known to many in the church outside city that the efficient clerk of As-

sembly is at the same time President of the National History Society of Montreal, and is a recognized authority on Botanical subjects.

The Rev. Dr. G. D. Bayne, of Pembroke is at the present time supplying the pulpit of Crescent St. Church.

### General.

The advertisement of the Toronto Bible Training School will be found in another column. The great design of this institution is to train consecrated men and women of all evangelical denominations for Christian service at home and abroad. Last session there were twenty Presbyterians in the day classes, and thirty-two in the evening classes. Six of these will leave this fall for different parts of the foreign field. The Training School is the only institution of the kind in Canada, and it has prospered beyond the highest expectation of its friends and founders.

This well-known institution, located in the Confederation Life Building, Toronto, has just closed for the summer holidays. During the past season its graduates have been greatly in demand by business men, over one hundred of them obtaining situations with Toronto firms alone. The college is owned and controlled by Stapleton Caldecott, Frederick Wyld, E.R. Clarkson, Edward Trout and several other representative Toronto business men, so that the practical nature of its commercial and shorthand courses is therefore guaranteed. Full information respecting the new term, which begins on Sept. 1st, may be obtained from the secretary, Mr. David Hoskins.

On Sabbath, July 19th, the First Presbyterian Church, St. Catharines, of which the Rev. J. H. Ratcliffe is pastor, was re-opened, after undergoing extensive improvements. The walls and ceiling have been tinted and decorated, and a handsome new pipe organ, built by the R. S. William's and Sons Co., of Toronto, has been added. The church has been greatly improved in appearance and equipment, and is without doubt entitled to take rank with the finest churches in the land. The organ is a beautiful instrument, both in appearance and quality of tone, and has quite captured the musical people of the city. Its quality was brought out at the recital on Tuesday evening, when Mr. A.G. Alexander, organist of St. George's Church, tested both its power and sweetness.

The Rev. G. Bruce, D.D., of St. John, N.B., conducted the re-opening services and was heartily greeted by many of his old flock. The improvements cost about \$1,900, nearly all of which is provided for. The congregation deserves to be congratulated on the spirit manifested, and the successful issue of its undertakings.

### Facts and Figures for the Uninsured.


"Generous to a fault, but careless of and cruel to his family, is the man who fritters away his earnings for their present delight, but deposits no savings for its continuance hereafter. It requires more self-denial to do your duty without insurance than with it. The uninsured are in no more peril than the insured, but their families are."

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### BOILING RIVER

It is sure enough, it is not as large as the Mississippi, indeed it is quite small, but a mighty interesting stream for all that. It issues from the sides of a Mountain in a thousand tiny rills, more or less and of almost as many colors. These gather themselves into pools and lakelets on the mountain's side, covering an area of about 200 acres. Overflowing their boundaries they slowly trickle down the sides of the mountain forming small cliffs, the most wonderful in the world. From a distance one can hardly believe what the eyesight reveals—white, black, orange, lemon, terra cotta, green, blue, red, pink, separate and in manifold combinations stand out before him. It is a hill of painted cliffs on the sides of the mountain that rises high above. And the odd part of it is that each of these exquisite colors represent a different temperature. Does that startle your credulity? Even so it is true.

When through with this beautiful painting process, these waters again come together and then, as if full of mischief like a pack of small boys trying to play hide and seek, dive down and remain under the ground for a space of two miles and then flow out from the mouth of a canyon as one of the clearest, most beautiful, green streams imaginable. Where these waters emerge from the mountain into the little lakes they are hot, boiling hot. During their dark underground journey they fall several hundred feet and also many degrees in hotness, so that when they again see daylight they are much cooler. This then is Boiling River, an underground mountain stream of hot water.

But you ask, where is it? Where can I see it? It is in Yellowstone Park at Mammoth Hot Springs. It is one of the lesser,—mind you the lesser—wonders of this land of wonders. Go there and see it by all means but first send to Chas. S. Fee, General Passenger Agent, Northern Pacific Railroad, St. Paul, Minn., six cents for Wonderland '96, that tells all about this renowned region.

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