

his pulpit and pastoral work, and his people felt his services to be fuller and richer than ever before. During a brief absence from home he was unhappily exposed to some malarial influences which injuriously affected his health, and for a few weeks he discharged his duties with some difficulty. No apprehensions, however, were entertained, either by himself or by his friends, of any serious issue, and not until within a few days of his departure were any fears felt as to his recovery. While upon what proved to be his last sick bed a deputation from the congregation of Knox Church, Toronto, waited upon him, and presented a call from that large and prominent congregation to be the colleague of their excellent and venerable pastor, Dr. Topp. He was able only to receive the delegation for a few minutes in his sick chamber, but neither at that time nor subsequently was he able to give the matter any consideration. A few days before his decease his disease became more complicated, and he grew rapidly worse. His physicians intimated to him that his recovery was more than doubtful and that in all probability the end was near. He received the announcement with great composure, and immediately sent for his friends. He sank so rapidly that very few could see him. On Friday night, feeling that his departure was at hand, he bade his children a tender farewell, left an affectionate message for his church, said to a loved brother in the ministry sitting at his bedside, "*All is well; all is peace.*" He remained unconscious during the greater part of the night, and about nine on Saturday morning quietly passed away.

Our departed brother was a man of high natural endowments, alike of mind and heart; a scholar of varied and extensive attainments; a Christian of strong convictions and profound experience; a preacher of eminent ability and great acceptance; a pastor of rare wisdom and tender sympathy; a theologian of decided views and large charity; a citizen of generous spirit and unswerving loyalty; a friend of unwavering steadfastness and loving forbearance. In all the private relations of life he was true and faithful; a fond and devoted husband, an indulgent and affectionate father, a trusting and trustworthy brother; one born for adversity. No weak or weary one ever applied to him in vain. His heart was open and his hand was free. Those who knew him most intimately loved him most dearly.

Thus, in the fifty-fourth year of his age, his eye undimmed and his strength unabated, in the midst of his usefulness, our gifted, genial, generous-hearted brother has left us. He will be long gratefully remembered by many hearts, like his own, both tender and true.

He had already accomplished much, and we fondly hoped he would be spared to achieve still more. His sun seemed only in the zenith, though so near its setting. Alas! that it went down so soon. But his work was done and his day closed. May we, his brethren and fellow-laborers, all like him be able to say at the close of our work and day. "*All is well; all is peace!*"

HOME MISSION WORK IN EMERSON, MANITOBA.

The Rev. John Scott our Missionary at Emerson and Pembina thus writes to the Convener, Dr. Cochrane under date 30th November:—

"We did not go on to finish the church during summer, on account of the great depression felt by our people all over this part of the country. The rains of June had been excessive—ten inches of water instead of three—the usual rain fall for June, in the Red River Valley. The country was flooded in a manner never known before. One of our people sailed from Emerson towards the Roseau River, about ten miles over the Prairie in a canoe. It was only on the high dry land that crops could be grown at all. That being the case, I felt, that I would rather preach in the school house, than burden our people with the finishing of their synagogue when they could hardly meet the expenses of their families. The Episcopalians received \$600 from England for their church, and the Methodist Episcopalians \$700 from Ontario; but the Presbyterians having received no such aid from England or Ontario, had to do all themselves.

"After harvest prospects began to brighten, friends in Emerson and vicinity got up a little tea-meeting or harvest supper, at the house of Thomas Carney, Esq., one of the proprietors of Emerson. From this we realized about \$66. Friends in Winnipeg also aided

us, and now I am happy to say that we are out of debt and free to go on to finish the wood work this winter. Your missionary has donated to the Building Committee what the people raised for his personal support, about \$118. As the Lord sends the means we purpose to go on, but not to run into debt. To an old strong Congregation a debt may be a bond of union, but to an infant Congregation it hangs at the neck like a millstone. If our friends in Ontario can aid us in finishing the first Presbyterian church in Southern Manitoba we will be very glad. The nearest Presbyterian Church south of us is 150 miles distant, the nearest to the north is sixty-five miles. Our building is a neat frame structure fifty feet by thirty, inclosed, with floor laid, windows in, and doors on. Seating, plastering, etc., is all that is required to make it fit for occupation. In the village and country our prospects are very hopeful. We have the confidence, I believe, of all classes—settlers, half-breeds, and Indians.

"Our Indian School at the Roseau has been kept on during summer. It has just been an experiment. In summer the Indians, like the buffalo, roam so over the prairie that it is hard to get their children to attend in one place. Winter is the time to get them as their families are then on the Reserve. If we succeed in keeping the school open nine months in the year we will do well. Through the kindness of friends in Winnipeg and Kildonan we are again furnished with biscuits for the teacher to deal out at noon, for a lunch to those that often at home have little to eat. Any donations for food or clothing for our Indian children, will be gladly received.

"Last summer I received my 'Commission' from the Presbyterian Board in New York as their missionary for Northern Dakota. It was dated from April 1st, 1877. At the end of six months from that date I sent in my report and in reply received a check for \$125. In that report I sought to give our brethren in the east, a clear statement of matters in the County of Pembina. Out of 2,000 souls embraced in the village and county of Pembina, I do not know of twenty living Christians. A year ago Pembina had two R. C. priests. This past summer it had none. 'We have no priest,' said a leading R. C. citizen, 'and that is very bad for us.' I sympathised with the rich son of France who made his sorrows known to the Protestant Missionary. The Episcopal Mission have also abandoned Pembina. Your brother is the only minister that preaches there and at the Fort, on the Lord's day. Our meetings at the village have greatly improved both in attendance and attention. We are getting a very interesting Sabbath School. The Lord has raised up two or three Christians to aid me in this blessed work. After the night of toil, are some signs of a day dawn. At the Fort a young officer lately from West Point, is anxious about the 'Word of God.' He reads a portion every day. He is now reading a book sent to me from London, 'A Soldier's Experience of God's Love and Faithfulness,' by Major Malan. In closing I may mention, that late in the fall, we had a visit from Bishop Carman, and so important does this field seem to him, that the Episcopal Methodist Church is now sending money to build a church at the Roseau, another at the Ma is, and another at Scratching River. They sent over \$1,000 to build their church in Winnipeg, besides the \$700 sent for the same purpose in Emerson. They have an eye to the future of this great land.

"Asking the prayers, sympathy, and aid of the brethren in the east, for all the toilers of the west, I remain, ever truly,

JOHN SCOTT."

IMPROVED PSALMODY.

MR. EDITOR,—Having been for years interested in the Psalmody of our church, I cannot help expressing my satisfaction at the suggestions thrown out by your correspondent, Mr. Jno. McLaren, and should you see fit to give a little space in your excellent paper to this department of church work, and invite correspondents, especially precentors and choirmasters, to express their views, I feel sure there will be no lack of interest in your musical column.

That our Psalmody is not what it should be is acknowledged by all, how is it to be improved is now the question in order. This question should, and probably does, interest nearly every congregation of our church in the Dominion; it is of immense importance, and every suggestion should be well considered. And it is to be hoped that by comparing notes and interchang-

ing views through the medium of your paper, new light may be thrown out and such suggestions adopted as may be practicable according to the circumstances of different congregations. By way of keeping the ball rolling and drawing out other correspondents, I would ask the following questions. 1st. Should we adopt entirely the syllabic style of tunes, and discard such as "New St. Ann's," "Orlinton," "St. Stephen's," "Contemplation," and others of that character? 2nd. What should be about the *Tempo* of such tunes as "Farrant," "Tallis," "Cathiness," "French," "McCombe," etc.

The selection of tunes and the manner of singing them has to do with improvement in Psalmody, and answers to the above may be of use to many Precentors.

It will be noticed that Mr. McLaren signs himself "Professor of Music, Presbyterian College, Montreal," this it seems to me is good news, the fact that there is one of our colleges sufficiently alive to the importance of the matter of Psalmody as to engage the services of a Professor of Vocal Music is certainly cause for congratulation, and it is sincerely to be hoped the position may be considered one of authority, and that it may become a power for good in our service of song.

Yours truly,

TUTTIL.

Montreal, 17th December, 1877.

IMPROVED CONGREGATIONAL SINGING.

MR. EDITOR,—In your last paper there is a letter from Mr. John McLaren, Professor of Music, Montreal Presbyterian College, suggesting a variety of topics for discussion on the above subject. The Professor also suggests a form of question and answer as the best means of bringing out information. I would therefore venture to ask the Professor or any other person of experience in this matter to reply to this question: "What is the best means of teaching and training choirs and congregations to sing?"

INQUIRER.

PRESBYTERY OF BARRIE.—The last regular meeting of this Presbytery was held on Tuesday, 4th December, at Barrie, and was largely attended by the members. There was not much business of public importance. The Revd. Messrs. J. M. Cameron and Carmichael of the Presbytery of Toronto, and Mr. J. A. Andrews, Missionary in Muskoka, were present and were invited to sit as corresponding members. "The following resolution expressive of sympathy with Rev. J. B. Fraser, M.D., was adopted. "The Presbytery, having heard with very great sorrow of the sad and severe bereavement of the Rev. J. B. Fraser, M.D., Missionary in Formosa, take the opportunity, from their past relations to him, of tendering him their hearty and earnest sympathy under the loss of his earthly partner and devoted help-meet in the Mission work, and of expressing their hope that the God of all consolation may support and comfort him in the midst of his tribulation." The Presbytery also adopted the following minute in connection with the resignation of the Rev. John Ferguson of the charge of South Line Osprey and Honeywood. "In accepting the resignation of the Rev. John Ferguson of the charge of Honeywood and South Line of Osprey, the Presbytery desire to place on record their appreciation of the talents and acquirements of their esteemed brother, of his ability and success in the discharge of onerous duties, and of the deep interest always taken by him in any work specially bearing upon the prosperity of the Church. Mr. Ferguson endeared himself to all his brethren by his kind and amiable disposition, his unassuming manner, his willingness at all times to discharge his proper share of the work of the Presbytery, and his earnest interest in anything connected with the welfare of the cause of the Redeemer. The Presbytery further desire to express their sympathy with the Congregation of Honeywood and South Line of Osprey now deprived of his faithful services, and while regretting the loss of his counsel and fellowship and aid in carrying on the work of this Presbytery they sincerely pray that in the providence of God he may be directed to some portion of the Master's vineyard where his experience and ability may be of much service to the cause of Christ, and that the work of the Lord may prosper in his hands." The Congregation of Creemore was authorized to mortgage their Church property to pay off debt of \$400. It was ascertained that about \$105 had been collected on Thanksgiving Day in aid of the Huntsville Mission Station in Muskoka and that further contributions might be expected. The decision of the Presbytery to devote the collections on Thanksgiving Day to this object was come to and published before anything was known of the purpose of the Assembly's Home Mission Committee to ask for collections on that occasion in aid of their funds.—ROB. MOONIE, Pres. Clerk.