

When the Mountains Were Made.

The Pliocene period, or third subdivision of the Tertiary epoch, was marked by a wonderful change in the manifestations of nature, and consequently by wonderful geographical alterations. The world had, up to this period, been divided into land and water, but with the land more or less level. Mountains had hitherto been unknown. But now came terrible subterranean convulsions. The outer crust was cooled and hardened, and as the boiling and seething mass within needed vent through which the compressed steam might escape, the hardened crust would be forced upward and a volcano would burst forth. It is believed, there being strong presumptive evidence in favor of the fact, that up to this period the portion of the earth now occupied by Europe was a vast sea, filled, perhaps, by numerous islands of more or less extent. The European Continent gradually emerged from this deep, while the chains of mountains were forced upward by an internal force. Fossil shells are found upon the Pyrenees at a height of 8,000 feet; on the Alps at a height of 10,000 feet; while in Sicily, the newer Pliocene rocks, covering nearly half the surface of the island, are raised from 2,000 to 3,000 feet above the level of the sea. In the Andes and the Himalayas the same evidence is found of their having been raised upward by volcanic action, as fossil shells are found on the former at a height of 13,000 feet, and on the latter at 18,000 feet. In the Central Alps Cretaceous, Oolitic, Liassic, and Eocene strata are found at the loftiest summits. Oolitic and Cretaceous strata have been raised 12,000 feet, Eocene 10,000 feet, and Miocene 4,000 feet and 5,000 feet above the level of the sea. Equally striking proofs of recent elevation are found in the Apennines, the celebrated Carrara marble turning out to be an altered limestone of the Oolitic series, and the underlying crystalline rocks to be metamorphosed secondary sandstones and shales.—The Argosy.

The training of Sabbath-school teachers is becoming more and more a live question. It is being agitated upon both sides of the Atlantic. There are many well qualified teachers in all our denominational Sunday schools. Presbyterians have a large share of them, but many more are needed. Plans are in operation for their multiplication. Facilities and opportunities for developing the teaching spirit and faculty are increasing. If piety and fervor are of the first importance, aptness to teach holds no subordinate place in religious instruction. Spiritual teaching and efficient teaching must go hand in hand if the best results are to be secured.

Men's faults do seldom to themselves appear.—Shakespeare.

Dominion Presbyterians Prosper

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posal was also mildly put. It was merely that the Assembly would allow the college to look about for another professor, who should relieve Professor Ballyntyne of a part of the double duties now imposed on him. Even this most mild request went through the committee stage.

Queen's.—It has become a chronic complaint of Queen's that she is neglected in the yearly ministrations. She frankly said, this year that she could no longer live on resolutions, and so had determined to do some foraging on her own account. If the Century Fund went on she would loyally join forces with it, but she must have supplies, and that immediately. She, too, asked for the ratification of her appointment of a new professor, and many appreciative words were spoken of Dr. Jordan, whom the Presbytery of Sarnia was instructed to release and the Presbytery of Kingston to induct as the new professor there.

Montreal.—Montreal had a good report, and it was ably presented by one of her distinguished graduates, Dr. Herridge. He deprecated the remark of a previous speaker, Mr. John Charlton, that there are too many colleges, and that it would be wise to consolidate and have one, or at most two well-equipped theological halls. Rather the success of each depended upon the maintenance of its individuality, and its sustained ambition to be in the lead. Dr. Robertson's speech in support of the adoption of the report was a characteristic one. He began all right, and his concluding sentence was pertinent, but all between the opening and closing sentences was artfully utilized in behalf of the cause of Home Missions.

Morrin.—The Quebec College announced that it had put up the shutters, and that a well-appointed property was on the market, or rather on the hands of the proprietors to do as might be deemed best. We hope some method may be devised to send the governors back to take the shutters down, and to begin life again under better auspices. A committee is busy with the problem.

Halifax.—The college by the sea, the oldest of the Canadian family, had an excellent report, and it was very ably presented by a man who looks as if the third decade were still before him. A strong, clear face, a resolute yet respectful bearing, a manly voice and well-chosen English, combined to make a favorable impression on the Assembly for the Rev. Robert Falconer, recently appointed to a chair there. Halifax has built a new hall, and is justly proud of it. She is proud, too, and with equally good right, of her eleven graduates this year, every one of whom is a graduate in Arts.

The proposal to bring up the question of the eligibility of the ruling elder to

act as Moderator of any Church Court received scant courtesy. Rev. L. H. Jordan presented the overture from the Presbytery of Toronto, not asking for any one or the other decision, but simply that the Supreme Court should pronounce upon the question and settle the matter finally. It was most courteous and able presentation. Dr. Laing followed, and urged that it be sent to a committee, who should report to next Assembly. Before the last syllable was uttered, a stentorian voice shouted, "Agreed!" Some half dozen other voices chimed in, the rest of the Assembly was silent, but the motion was declared carried. We should like to have seen a vote. The decision was in marked contrast to the presentation.

Friday evening is always devoted to Foreign Missions. The report was of the usual character, full of a sense of great responsibility, and urgently asking for increased support. The appointment of five additional missionaries, to whom reference has already been made in the Dominion Presbyterian, was a pleasing feature; also the announcement that the working balance had increased to some \$30,000. May it continue to grow with increasing rapidity.

Mr. J. T. Taylor, one of the two missionaries appointed, was introduced to the Assembly, but there was no time to hear even his voice. When will the Conveners learn to submit their reports in a few well-chosen business-like sentences, and leave time to hear men fresh from the work, whose voices are only heard once in a decade?

The speakers this year were Rev. Hugh McKay, of Round Lake, and Rev. J. Wilkie, of Indore. Mr. McKay's address was almost startling in its intensity. The man himself was a sermon. His deep-set, earnest eyes, looking out over the audience, made one think of the Old Testament prophet. And when he spoke every word fell like a living coal upon the tense, sensitive ear. It was positively painful at times to listen to him. His description of the missionary's visit to the new settlement, through the storm, was a piece of the most vivid word-painting we have ever listened to. We can see Muirhead yet, as he got out and felt for the trail in the darkness of night and storm. And for weird, tender beauty, what could surpass the prayer he heard as he bent over the unconscious old Indian woman, dead already to things of the present world, groping her way toward the brightness she saw afar off, and seeking for one to guide her. "I lent my ear," said Mr. McKay, "to listen, and I heard her saying: 'O Jesus, take my hand. Have you got it? Oh, yes. Hold it fast! I shall be all right now!' She was only an old, despised Indian squaw. Yet within her breast there was a beautiful faith, simple, yet strong, in her Lord."

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