

OUR CONTRIBUTORS.

HOME MISSION NOTES.—II.

BY THE EDITOR OF COURAGE.

BRACEBRIDGE AND HUNTSVILLE.

My last letter brought me to Bracebridge, where our indefatigable missionary, the Rev. Mr. Findlay, has been stationed for the last three years. Bracebridge has sprung up into prominence since the Muskoka territory began to attract emigrants, and now numbers a population of 1,400. It is needless to say that almost every denomination is represented, and that the Roman Catholic Bishop (formerly Rev. Father Jamot of Toronto,) makes this the headquarters of his diocese. It is a busy growing place, attracting many merchants from the older places in Ontario, and doing a considerable business with the farmers in the neighbourhood and emigrants, who are daily pushing further north into the Free Grant districts.

Our Presbyterian cause in Bracebridge from various adverse circumstances, has not acquired that strength which might be expected, considering the length of time it has been occupied by us as a Church. Indeed until Mr. Findlay came it had nothing more than an existence. Even yet it must be largely helped by our general fund, but the prospects are much more encouraging, and give hope that it may soon become self-sustaining, or at least be able to relieve the fund of some portion of the grant it now receives. Mr. Findlay has been of great service to us as a Church, not only in his own pastorate, but in taking a general superintendence of the mission field in the widely extended Muskoka district. It needs one to travel the immense distances between stations and experience the jolting of corduroy and rocks, which as yet form the road bed in many parts of this district, to understand the labour our missionaries have to endure. Our merchants who come with their families to rusticate in the summer months at Lakes Rosseau and St. Joseph, carried in pleasure boats or palace cars from point to point, - see only the light side of the picture, and know nothing of the perils undergone in spring and winter in supplying ordinances to the handfuls of Presbyterians that are scattered over this region.

There are we believe including the Parry Sound district some forty mission stations under the charge of the Presbytery of Barrie, nearly as many as in the Province of Manitoba, and supplied, I venture to say, at a cost to the Church incredibly small. For four months in the year Mr. Findlay leaves his own charge and visits each in turn, dispensing ordinances where there are no ordained ministers. This year in his absence his pulpit is supplied with great acceptance by the Rev. Mr. Herald formerly of Dundas. At the last meeting of the Home Mission Committee the sum of \$200 was voted Mr. Findlay to enable him to procure a horse, and his people at Bracebridge have generously donated him a vehicle, thus completing his travelling outfit. The absolute necessity of both, to enable him to do the work demanded with any degree of satisfaction or comfort, must be admitted by all who have travelled over the field to any extent.

At Bracebridge we lectured to a goodly audience for the benefit of the building fund of the church. The debt amounts to \$1,000, a sum which presses heavily upon the members, but which could nevertheless be greatly reduced if all were alike generous and loyal to our cause. It is here, I fear, as elsewhere, there are many who give little or nothing for the support of ordinances, and who keep aloof when money is mentioned. Our good friends at Bracebridge cannot too soon understand that they never had a better chance than at present to reduce their debt, and gradually reach the self-sustaining point. The Home Mission Committee have for a long term of years dealt liberally with them, and cannot always be expected to continue the same large supplement. We hope Mr. Findlay may long be spared to the Church, in this most important but laborious field.

A church has also been erected at Gravenhurst, and a call has been given to the Rev. Mr. Dawson formerly of Beamsville. It is to be hoped that Mr. Dawson will accept, and thus aid Mr. Findlay to some extent in the supervision of this important field.

From Bracebridge we next proceeded to

HUNTSVILLE,

twenty-five miles further north. Here Mr. Andrews,

our missionary, has laboured for sixteen months with great zeal and success. In addition to the congregation in Huntsville he supplies several stations within a radius of twenty miles. This is comparatively new ground, but is rapidly filling up with emigrants. Mr. Andrews has a genius for building churches as well as preaching, and here and elsewhere has initiated steps for the erection of neat edifices where our people may worship. During our visit to Huntsville the new church just completed was opened, Mr. Findlay taking part with us in the services. The day was all that could be desired, and the attendance encouraging, more especially when we take into account that the Methodist Church and the Church of England had services in the forenoon at the same hour. As if still further to reduce the attendance, the quarterly meeting of the Methodist Church was appointed for the same day and hour as our opening services.

Mr. Andrews tells us that during eleven months he walked over 2,000 miles between his stations, besides the ordinary pastoral work of the week. This we presume is but a specimen of the physical labour our missionaries have to endure in this sparsely settled district.

The entire field has been exceedingly well supplied during the summer months by the students of Knox College. It was impossible for us to visit Mr. Grant or Mr. Bryden, and others stationed at Port Sidney, Doe Lake, the Magallowan and elsewhere. From all, however, there are encouraging tidings as to attendance upon ordinances and interest in our Presbyterian cause. New churches are being erected at almost every point, and the work becoming thoroughly systematised.

Looking at this great field—and it is only one of many we have been privileged as a Church to enter—the question arises, what of the future of these stations? Is our work to be abridged? Are these points to be abandoned for lack of men and means? Are our people prepared to enforce measures of retrenchment upon the Committee, by withholding the funds necessary for the vigorous prosecution of our work? These questions are pertinent at the present time, when a debt of \$6,000 rests upon us. We cannot stand still in the work of Home Missions. We must either go backward or advance. If the membership of the Church withhold the means, then there is nothing for the Committee but suspension of effort with all the sad consequences that must inevitably follow. If not prepared to hold what we have gained, and follow it up from year to year, it were better for us in some respects that we had not done so much.

A lecture on behalf of the building fund of the Huntsville Church, and a day spent at the Sabbath school pic-nic, closed our visit to this interesting field.

NOTES FROM OTTAWA.

Ottawa, which was originally known as "Bytown," is the capital of the Dominion, and has a population of about 30,000. It is situated on the Ottawa River, and for grand and romantic scenery is not surpassed by any city in Canada. There are many places of interest and attraction, many costly and ornamental buildings, but the Parliament buildings and grounds and the Chaudiere Falls are the chief attractions of the city. The churches, schools, and banks are well worthy the attention of sight-seers, and will be found to equal the best of similar buildings in other cities. The population is largely French, a large number of whom speak only their mother tongue. The principal business of the city arises from the lumbering interest, and from the government having its seat here. During the last ten or fifteen years Ottawa has enjoyed a large measure of prosperity, and large fortunes have been made, out of which palatial residences have been built, some of which will rival if not outdo any in Toronto; but just at present business is not what it has been, and gloomy forebodings are being indulged in regarding the approaching winter.

PRESBYTERIANISM

is strong here. We have four good churches and a mission station all in active operation and all doing good work in the Master's cause

KNOX CHURCH,

which occupies a nice situation in City Hall Square, is a new building, of cut stone, and is not only a credit to Presbyterianism but an ornament to the city. The pastor of this Church is the Rev. W. F. Faries, who during his short pastorate has endeared himself to

his congregation and proved a worthy successor to such men as Dr. Wardrope and Professor McLaren. At present Mr. Faries is absent from the city on his holidays, but his pulpit yesterday was acceptably filled by the Rev. Dr. Mutchmore of Philadelphia, who preached two eloquent sermons. At the morning service Dr. Mutchmore preached from Mark x. 14: "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God." At the outset the preacher stated that his discourse was occasioned by the death of an only child, two years old, of a brother minister. The child referred to had attended a Sabbath School once, and had learned the words which formed the text, and in a very short time died. The words of the text were the last words the child uttered, and the first seed deposited in its soul. The learned Doctor considered the text under four heads. first, "Child Nature;" second, "Child Nurture;" third, "Child Culture;" fourth, "Child Comfort." The sermon, which was a very able one, was couched in chaste and eloquent language, and although it occupied an hour in the delivery the closest attention was manifested to the close. The name and appearance of Dr. Mutchmore will be familiar to many of our Canadian ministers, as he was lately a delegate to our Assembly.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH,

which is situated on the corner of Sparks and Kent Streets is one of the leading and most important churches in the city. The church has been lately built at a cost of over \$80,000. The new church stands on the site of the old building, which was among the oldest churches in the city. The pastor is the Rev. D. M. Gordon, who about ten years ago was called to succeed the Rev. Dr. Spence, who is still alive and who draws a retiring allowance from the congregation, which is in a most flourishing condition and which comprises a number of the most respectable merchants and professional men in the city. Mr. Gordon, who is a Nova Scotian by birth, has taken a high position in the Church in Ontario. He is regarded as one of our foremost preachers, whilst at the same time he attends most assiduously to the wants of a large and increasing congregation. He preached at the evening service, taking for his text the last clause of the 16th verse of the 22nd chapter of Revelation: "I am the root and the offspring of David and the bright and morning star." The preacher stated that on former occasions he had been considering the "I am" of Scripture, and that he would now discourse upon the last "I am" to be found in the Bible. The sermon was clear, concise, and eloquent, and was listened to attentively.

BANK ST. CHURCH

is a branch off Knox Church, and was organized about ten years ago by the Rev. Mr. Moore, who still continues his labors in that congregation, which is in a flourishing condition, and which will long remain as a proof of Mr. Moore's ministry and an illustration of his ability, energy and faithfulness.

DALY ST. CHURCH

is also a branch off Knox Church, worships in the old Knox Church building, and is largely composed of such members as were unfavorable to undertake the building of the present new edifice. Since its organization, Daly Street congregation has continued to prosper, and under the pastorate of the Rev. William Armstrong, who was a distinguished student of Knox College, and is an able preacher, we hope ere long to see it take its place as one of the foremost churches in the city. With such churches and such preachers the cause of Presbyterianism has nothing to fear in the capital of the Dominion, and it is gratifying to note that for prestige, position, and substantial evangelical work it is not second to any other denomination.

Windsor Hotel, 5th Aug.

MR. MOODY ON THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.

MR. EDITOR, In the August number of the "Presbyterian Record" is given an extract from a sermon preached by the great modern evangelist in Boston. No note of any kind accompanies the extract, and it appears as if it met with the entire approval of the editor of the organ of this Church. The "Record" is not intended for the discussion of controverted questions, nor can I ask the privilege of noting my decided dissent from some things in that extract, so that I re-