

your theological lectures far eclipse those of Hodge or Cunningham or Chalmers? *Brother, how do you do your own work?*

OUR new buildings are near completion, and exceed in every respect even the highest anticipations. A grand formal opening will be held some time in November. It is whispered that the muses have been hard at work during the summer, and that the much-dreamed-of dedicatory anthem is assuming tangible form.

IF daily newspapers are ever to be relied upon, an impression was abroad at the last General Assembly that "the Montreal College is going ahead too fast!" Nonsense!

A FEW weeks ago, two oil-paintings exhibited in the window of our college booksellers, W. Drysdale & Co., attracted considerable notice. They were by Rev. T. Fenwick, Metis, Que. One was a portrait of the Marquis of Argyll, painted for Queen's College, Kingston; the other was a likeness of John Knox, intended for the walls of our new hall. Both are well executed, but the picture of Knox undoubtedly carries off the palm.

PROFESSOR SCRIMGER spent a portion of the summer travelling in Europe for the benefit of his health. When he returned home again he was warmly welcomed by his late congregation at a special entertainment, when an original poem was read expressing the people's best wishes for his future welfare.

OUR Methodist friends are to be congratulated upon the handsome appearance of their new Wesleyan College building on University street. The base of little Mount Royal is truly becoming noted for the many fine academic structures there situated.

We have infinite satisfaction and pleasure in welcoming back to the old halls—or rather the new!—Rev. W. J. Dey, M.A., '76, in his capacity of Dean of Residence. Mr. Dey is a distinguished scholar and theologian, and every way fitted for the position he has accepted. His warm missionary spirit has already been manifested in many directions since he undertook his duties. He is highly respected and admired by all.

FOR the first time in the history of McGill College, last April the Lorne gold medal for modern languages was successfully competed for, and awarded to a theologian—Joseph L. Morin, B.A., '85. Mr. Morin received congratulations from His Excellency in a note to Principal Dawson.

THE American Scientific Association held a convention here in the latter part of August. The meetings were held chiefly in the class-rooms of McGill and in Molson Hall. In the latter place one Sabbath afternoon the Association held a largely attended prayer-meeting, in which several prominent members took part. Leigh R. Gregor, B.A., '85, acted as one of the Secretaries of the Local Committee.

Mission Work in Manitoba.

I.

It is perhaps safe to say that, to Canadians at least, there is no country in the world in which they are more interested, no topic of conversation more attractive and absorbing than Manitoba and the North-West generally. The rude beginnings of that portion of our Dominion, giving little promise of future greatness, her growth in population now being swelled by fresh accessions every day, the development of her vast resources—all these have been watched with eagerness not unmingled with speculation and curiosity. Not a few suspicious of the marvellous stories from that quarter, and loath to accept statements circulated through the columns of the not too painfully truthful press, have sought to satisfy themselves by making a journey thither, and to arrive at a definite estimate of the country by personal observation. By far the greater number, however, who turn their eyes and their steps northwards, are prompted by other and more natural motives, whether it be to repair or increase their fortunes, to get beyond the reach of a complicated society with its conventional restraints, or to while away part of a lifetime in a vagabond fashion. All these influences have been, and are still at work, and thus it is that the territory which, within the memory of the present generation, was all but unknown save to the Indian, the trapper and a few bold spirits, has now become the home of hundreds; and not only so, but she is daily adding to the number of her sons from the ranks of every class, and from the people of almost every civilized land.

To the students of this college, and the readers of the journal generally, it may not be uninteresting to read a short sketch touching some features of a sojourn in Manitoba, and of mission-work in which the writer was there engaged during the past summer. To speak about the wonderful resources and great area of Manitoba and the adjoining provinces to the West, to give some idea of the stream of emigration now flowing thither, to depict the struggles, privations and rude life of the pioneer settler, to sketch the different types of men and women met with, this were a delightful and tempting task. In the present connection, only an incidental reference can be made to these. To us, the chief interest in the North-West must centre in the state of our missions as there carried on, in the advantages which it offers as a field for missionary endeavor, in the lethargy or enterprise displayed by the Church in introducing and establishing gospel ordinances, and especially in the present prospects and future status of the Presbyterian Church. These various points will be touched upon in the course of this cursory sketch.

It was after midnight, in the earlier part of last May, when the writer arrived in what is now the city of Brandon. At first sight the general aspect of things was dreary and uninviting enough. To the view appeared an irregular