

on the Wellington, Grey and Bruce Railway, contains a population of about 2,000, and is surrounded by a district of country which, for richness of soil and romantic scenery, is not to be surpassed by any other portion of Canada. The most attractive scenery is on the

GRAND RIVER,

which runs through the town, and which empties itself in Lake Erie. For some distance in the neighbourhood of Elora, the course of this magnificent River offers to the student of Geology and Natural Science a variety of subjects for study and contemplation. The bed of the river is said by some to be the result of an earthquake, the banks in some places towering to the height of nearly 100 feet, and in many places lined with immense massive stones in a perpendicular position, and the whole presenting the most romantic scenery that it is possible for the eye to rest upon.

PRESBYTERIANISM

is well and respectably represented in Elora, and is not as in some other places where it is known as the only "invisible church."

The stranger coming into the town will at once be attracted by two new churches, and when he begins to enquire what they are he will soon learn that they are "Presbyterian," one built about three years and the other nearing completion, which is Chalmers' Church—of which the Rev. Mr. Middlemiss is the pastor, and which I understand is to be opened for public worship by the Rev. Dr. Caven early in November. The church is a fine building, costing in the neighbourhood of \$15,000, and is in every way creditable to the spirit and enterprise of its excellent minister and congregation. The history of this church dates back about twenty-one years. It was founded by the Rev. Mr. Smellie, who was succeeded by the present pastor. Mr. Middlemiss is a native of Scotland, and was educated at Edinburgh.

KNOX CHURCH

is one of the best of our ecclesiastical edifices, and occupies a pleasant situation. This Church was erected about three years ago at a cost of about \$25,000, a large proportion of which has been paid. The Church, which is furnished with every convenience, will seat about 900 persons. It was opened for public worship by Rev. Dr. Robb, Toronto. Knox Church was organized about twenty years ago, the Rev. John Duff being its first minister. He was succeeded by the Rev. D. A. McDonald, the present pastor, under whose pastorate the congregation would seem to have rapidly increased, now numbering about 300 members, and comprising a number of wealthy farmers, such as Watts, McQueen, and Hunter, who are known outside their own neighbourhood as prominent agriculturists. Mr. McDonald is of Scotch descent and was born in Canada. He was educated in Knox College, from which institution have come so many of our best Canadian ministers, who are at once a credit to the Church and the college where they were educated.

As a preacher Mr. McDonald occupies a prominent place. His sermons give evidence of careful preparation, and are delivered with a natural and unaffected eloquence. As a minister he enjoys the confidence of the entire Church.

With such a ministry the good name of Presbyterianism is safe in Elora, in which district I may here say that our people are warmly attached to Presbyterian principles.

In conclusion permit me to say that the more I travel through the country and the closer the acquaintance that I make with the Presbyterian community, generally the more am I convinced that the distinctive principles of Presbyterianism are becoming better and more extensively known, and that the more they are understood and investigated, the firmer will be the hold which they will take upon the people, who at all times for general intelligence and a knowledge of the doctrines of saving grace, will compare favourably with those of any other Church. K.

27th October, 1877.

STUDENTS' MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE, MONTREAL.

The annual meeting of this society was held in the College on the evening of Friday, October 19th. Rev. A. C. Morton occupied the chair. The chief business was the hearing of reports from the missionaries of last summer and the election of officers for the ensuing year. During the past summer the so-

ciety worked three groups of fields, employing six missionaries.

1. OTTAWA GROUP.—Cantley and Portland were worked by Mr. Donaldson, whose report was highly encouraging. One church is in course of erection, and so far completed that services were held in it. In another part of the field the people are getting out timber for a second church. The total average attendance at the four preaching stations was 210.

Mr. Shearer also laboured in this region at Chalk River, and other points scattered over an area of thirty-two miles long, and eight miles wide. There are here forty-four Protestant families, and four preaching stations, with a total average attendance of 102. In visiting through his extensive district the missionary had to resort to various modes of travel—among others canoeing and portaging. It is refreshing to hear of the zeal of this people for the gospel. As an example, Mr. Shearer reports that one young woman gave him as a second subscription for the society, seventy cents, the whole sum she received for a few hens, to sell which she walked forty-eight miles.

2. EASTERN TOWNSHIPS GROUP.—These townships, well-known for their fertility, constitute the garden of Quebec. The aspect from a religious stand point is not so fair. All this part of the Province has been over-run by Universalists, Adventists, and kindred sects. The common sense of the people revolts against the doctrines these denominations teach. Men say if this is religion we will have none of it, and so they drift into scepticism and indifference. The preaching of the plain gospel after the simple Presbyterian form has been marvellously successful in this section of country. We believe the duty of our Presbyterian Church (and we know the duty of our Missionary Society) is to step in and arouse the people from their religious indifference and bring them to Christ. Mr. Nelson labored at Coaticook and Richby, where, at the end of our second summer's work, we have a staunch little congregation of thirty-two members, with at least as many more adherents. Mr. Russell was the missionary at Massawippi and vicinity. When he entered the field he could not find a single Presbyterian, whereas there is now the "Massawippi Presbyterian Church," with twenty members and an average attendance of one hundred.

3. NORTH HASTINGS GROUP.—The two fields here are in the genuine backwoods, being in the free-grant district of Hastings County. Mr. Munro carried on the work at Thanet and The Ridge, besides travelling great distances to preach wherever he could find a few settlers. At The Ridge, there is a church which is nearly completed. At Thanet the services are held in a private house. Although this field is weak it is very interesting on account of the great exertions and sacrifice the settlers make to have the gospel preached to them. Their desire for instruction in spiritual things is shown by the fact that they meet together and have one of the elders read a sermon every Sabbath whilst they are without a missionary. There is also a prospect of this field becoming stronger by the settlement of a large tract of arable land near The Ridge.

Mr. Donald was missionary at L'Amable, York River and Egan Farm, forty-five miles distant from Madoc, the nearest village. In all of these stations services were conducted in school houses. Through the liberality of Rev. D. Wishart, of Madoc, a site for a church and manse has been secured at L'Amable. Mr. McKillop, the missionary for the summer of 1876, has set on foot a scheme for the erection of a church which is expected to be completed next summer. L'Amable is the central place of the northern townships of Hastings, and must rise in importance now that the whole county is being rapidly settled. We expect very soon to see a large strong congregation in that place.

The following officers were elected for the present year:—President, John Allan, B.A.; First Vice-President, Chas. McKillopp, B.A.; Second Vice-President, Chas. McLean; Recording Secretary, John Munro, B.A.; Corresponding Secretary, J. T. Donald; Treasurer, M. D. Blakely; Executive Committee, Wm. Shearer, A. York, R. McKibbin, A. Anderson, J. Allard.

Considering all the circumstances, the finances of this Society are in a more prosperous condition than in any previous year. In reviewing the work of the Society during the past season we have much reason to thank God for the success which has attended its labours.

J. T. DONALD, Corresponding Sec.

[For the PRESBYTERIAN.]

A PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE AND STRENGTH.

Lord, while my course I but begun,
Teach me the world's false joys to shun;
To its vain show no homage lend,
But only at Thy footstool bend.

To sin and error—O how prone I
My hope is in Thy grace alone;
Uphold, and help me day by day,
To bear the cross, and watch, and pray.

Thou hast a chart in mercy given—
A chart to show the way to heaven;
Illumine, Lord, my feeble sight,
That I may read its signs aright.

And be my hope a beacon clear
An anchor sure in doubt and fear;
To fortify my struggling soul,
When tempests rise and billows roll.

My God! Thy love so great and strong—
The love that swells angelic song—
Inspires my blood-bought soul to raise,
An endless anthem to Thy praise.

And when, like yonder setting sun,
My pilgrimage on earth is done;
Jesus, Saviour, stand beside,
And bring me safe o'er Jordan's tide.

Kincardine.

C.C.A.F.

EXPLANATION WANTED.

MR. EDITOR,—A recent report of proceedings of the Paris Presbytery in your columns says:—"In view of the fact that no representative from this Presbytery had been appointed on the Home Mission Committee for the current year, Mr. McMullen was appointed to represent the Presbytery on said committee." Now it would be interesting to know how the Presbytery came to ignore Mr. Cochrane's position on the committee, or to conclude that in him they were insufficiently represented. Further, there are some who would like to know if it is in order thus to revise and amend the proceedings of the General Assembly after this fashion. Would "Anti grumbler" or some one else who is initiated tell us if any Presbytery not represented or with only one of its members upon a standing committee is failing in its duty if it do not follow the example of the so-called "Model Presbytery." ANTI-ANNULUS.

OBITUARY.

On Friday, 19th of Oct. Mr. Robert Gunn, student, passed into his rest. He was the son of Mr. John Gunn, formerly of Beaverton, now of Woodville, one of the best known of the veteran elders of our Church. Mr. Robert Gunn was born in 1857, and became savingly acquainted with the truth in his boyhood. He was soon marked among his fellows as a youth of strict conscientiousness and intense religious zeal. He began his studies with a view to the gospel ministry many years ago, and combined with the course in arts a partial course in medicine, as he purposed to spend his ministerial career on heathen shores. For such a position he seemed eminently fitted, on account of his strong religious enthusiasm. The Lord had other purposes in view, and Mr. Gunn was attacked by pneumonia nearly two years ago, which worked on by slow and deadly degrees till the above date when "The earthly house of his tabernacle was dissolved." His death bed was one of peace and triumph. His funeral was attended by a large concourse of mourning friends—the religious services on the occasion being conducted by his pastor, Rev. J. L. Murray of Woodville, assisted by Rev. J. M'Nabb of Beaverton, Prof. McLaren of Toronto, and Rev. J. Fraser of Kincardine. Thus passed away to glory on the eve apparently of a bright and useful career in the Church one of her most promising sons.

TO CONSUMPTIVES.

The advertiser, a retired physician, having providentially discovered, while a Medical Missionary in Southern Asia, a very simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of consumption, asthma, bronchitis, catarrh, and all throat and lung affections, also a positive and radical specific for nervous debility and all nervous complaints, feels it his duty to make it known to his suffering fellows. Actuated by this motive he will cheerfully send, free of charge, to all who desire it, the recipe for preparing, and full directions for successfully using this providentially discovered remedy. Those who wish to avail themselves of the benefits of this discovery without cost, can do so by return mail, by addressing, with stamp, Dr Charles P. Marshall, 33 Niagara Street, Buffalo, N.Y.