

address on the Lesson topic:

On the first and third Fridays of the month social meetings of the Club are conducted in the Managers' room of the church. These meetings, arranged by the Programme and Social Committees, have proved eminently attractive and helpful. The whole membership is divided into teams of four under the leadership of a captain. A record is kept of the results of various competitions throughout the year, and at the Annual Dinner a silver cup, donated by the class leader, is awarded to the team scoring the highest number of points. Speeches, debates, mock-trials, scenes from Shakespeare, spelling matches, and a variety of indoor games, especially carpet-balls, are engaged in and keenly contested. The Athletic Committee manages the hockey team in the skating season, and an annual sleighing party is held.

Last winter a friend in the congregation gave a most enjoyable dinner at his home to the entire Club. The Benevolent Committee has done a considerable amount of charitable work. Several of the boys have recently joined the church.

Toronto

Glimpses from Our Church's History

By Rev. Professor James Ballantyne, D.D.

I. THE VERY BEGINNING

The story of the Presbyterian Church in Canada begins in what is now known as Nova Scotia. But Nova Scotia was at first a part of the overseas dominions of France, and the first permanent settlers there were French and Roman Catholic. These people were called "Acadians."

At last Acadia, and this included New Brunswick, passed by treaty from Catholic France to Protestant England. The people, however, remained Catholic and French in their sympathies. Finally their disloyalty became so serious a menace to British authority, that it was resolved to transport them to the number of 7,000 and distribute them among the other British colonies in America. This was in 1755.

After the expulsion of the Acadians, the land began to be occupied by Protestants, and among them were many Presbyterians

from New England, from the Highlands of Scotland, and the North of Ireland. From that time the community has been in the main Protestant.

The Presbyterians were neglected by the churches from which they had come, yet they did not abandon the church of their fathers. When years passed and no minister was sent to them, they provided one from among themselves. They chose Mr. Comingoe, a Lunenburg fisherman of excellent character and good natural parts, but of meagre education. He was ordained in the year 1770, and thus took place not only the first Presbyterian ordination, but, it is believed, the first ordination of any Protestant minister in Canada.

But a more important stage in the history of Presbyterianism in the East was the arrival from Scotland in 1786 of Dr. James McGregor, who was really the apostle of Nova Scotia. Arriving in Halifax, he pushed on to Truro, and finding a few settlers there, gathered them in a barn and preached his first sermon. Almost immediately, however, he pushed on to New Glasgow in Pictou County, which became his headquarters, and for over forty years traveled throughout the Maritime Provinces, preaching the gospel, founding and nourishing Presbyterian churches, thus contributing largely to the moral and spiritual welfare of the whole country. His arrival in a settlement was generally followed by a spiritual revival. When he died, the throng of two thousand people who attended his funeral, in spite of the difficulties of travel at that time, attested the affection in which he was held and the worth of his work.

In nothing were the Presbyterians of those early days more to be admired than in their zeal for learning and their desire to provide for themselves an educated ministry. But the institutions of higher learning were closed to them. No member of King's College, the State University, was permitted to attend a place of worship other than the Anglican. It was an unjust law, but it led to the establishment of the Pictou Academy. Out of the Academy grew Dalhousie University, which has played so great a part in the intellectual life of the Provinces of the East.

Knox College, Toronto