

Provinces of Canada, preached an eloquent sermon to the English speaking delegates in the American Chapel. He also spoke in the convention and gave the address at the farewell meeting. The Y. M. C. A. of Berlin has about a dozen mission stations in the city and is doing a noble work.

Missionary Cabinet.

PASTOR GOSSNER AND HIS MISSION.

THE history of the Gossner Missionary Society is unique. Its founder, Pre-diger John Gossner, sometimes styled *Papa Gossner*, was born in Bavaria in 1773; and was ordained priest in the Church of Rome in 1796. It was through his instrumentality that the first Christian missionaries were sent out from Berlin, and though never in the mission field himself, the results of his energetic labours on behalf of missions fully justify the frequent allusions that have been made to them as illustrating the amount of good that may be effected by the persistent efforts of one man. He was an eccentric man, and one of his eccentricities was that he could not work satisfactorily for any great length of time with other people. He had been a member of the committee of the Berlin Missionary Society which was founded in 1824 "for the promotion of Evangelical Missions among the Heathen." This society, it may be mentioned, sent out its first missionaries to South Africa in 1834 and, with a few exceptions, its operations have since been entirely restricted to that field where it has now 60 missionaries, upwards of 500 communicants, and about 12,000 adherents. The society is connected with the Lutheran Church, and its missionaries are required to subscribe to the Augsburg Confession. It has its headquarters in Berlin, where there is a missionary college, of which Dr. Wangemann, the secretary of the society, is the director. It was a difference of opinion in regard to the training of missionaries that caused the separation of Gossner from his associates in 1836.

Gossner had worked hard and zealously in the Roman Church. A man of eminently Catholic views, he always observed a friendly attitude towards the Protestant ministers with whom he came in contact. On this account, as well as for the evangelical tone

of his preaching, he soon fell under the suspicion of his ecclesiastical superiors and was subjected to trial and imprisonment. He was subsequently reinstated, however, and appointed to a charge in Munich. Here he translated the New Testament into German so satisfactorily that his edition was adopted by the British and Foreign Bible Society. After moving from Munich to Dusseldorf and Petersburg (whence he was banished), he went to Leipsig, where he spent three years. He was at length excommunicated, when he resolved to seek admission into the Lutheran, the State Church of Prussia. He removed to Berlin and was appointed pastor of Bethlehem Church there. He soon attracted a large congregation by the earnestness and eloquence of his preaching; at the same time he was regarded with small favour by the Berlin clergy who spoke disparagingly of "the apostate Romish priest." About this time he took charge of a number of young men with a view to educating them as lay missionaries. They were mostly mechanics who were anxious to engage in mission work upon purely apostolic principles. They were to be chargeable to no man or society, but to earn their livelihood by manual labour. Such instruction as they needed was to cost them nothing. They were to accept no salaries, and the missions which they should plant must be self-supporting from the very outset. The first company of these missionaries—twelve in number—were sent to Australia in 1837, upon the invitation of Dr. Lang of the Scotch Church, near Moreton Bay. What measure of success attended their labours among the natives does not appear. In 1843 an attempt was made to establish a similar mission in New Caledonia in the South Seas. But neither does this seem to have been successful. But Gossner's faith was not to be weakened by difficulties and failures. His heart was set on the missionary enterprise. It is said that he even learned English when seventy years old, in order to read more about missionary work. Eventually, his attention was providentially turned to India:—The widow of a physician, Helfer, a man of considerable scientific attainments, who had settled and died in Mergui, offered her estate on favourable terms as a good station for a mission. Gossner closed with the offer, and sent out,