A BAPTIST MISSIONARY.

[WRITTEN FOR THE REGISTER.]

We see by the papers that the Baptist body of this city are sending out a missionary of their sect to Bolivia, in Western South America; and it is added in connection with the announcement, that he is the first representative of that stripe of religious thought accredited to the distant republic. Whether the first from Canada or the first altogether does not appear.

We hope the gentleman may have a pleasant trip, and, on his arrival in that far away region, be treated with the courtesy due to a stranger. No doubt we shall be favored with accounts of his labors, and so become better acquainted with the character and habits of men familiar with the roar of the great Pacific. It is hardly to be expected that he will like all the things he must encounter in a civilization so different from what he is leaving; but if he uses his eyes well and, carefully resisting temptations, which have swamped many members of his class, gives us a truthful account of the way they live in Bolivia, he can fully earn the money the Baptists of Toronto are paying him.

That he will have any success as a missionary, in the proper sense of that term, we k... before hand is impossible; and that for two powerful reasons. First because of the people to whom he goes, and secondly for reasons proper to himself. The inhabitants of Bolivia, like the rest of South America are either Catholics or pagans. There are of course, in all these distant republics, a sprinkling of Protestants, English, German, American and so on, but they are only a drop in the bucket, at least, considered from the point of view of religion. The population is, as I have described it either Catholic descendants of the Spaniards, or Catholic convert natives, or secondly tribes not yet Christianized. And with neither of these can a Baptist preacher hope to make any headway. And first let us consider the unconverted natives. What can a Baptist, or, for the matter of that, any Protestant do with them? Can he convert them? Make Christians of them? By no manner of means. And my proof is this, that so far he has never done anything of the kind, any where in the world, or at any period of history. It is not denied that he can break down opinions here and there, can make Protestants of another denomination come over to his, and even cause bad or uninstructed Catholics to apostatize. Nay further it is admitted that with abundant supplies of money he can gather round his school or college, or meeting house, an attendance of as many as see their profit in it. All this may be admitted because it has been done. But where and when has the Protestant missioner whether Baptist or otherwise, taken up a pagan people, or even a single tribe, and made it so Christian, that the supplies being withdrawn, and persecution coming, it still persevered? If such a thing has happened we never heard nor read of it. Of course we do hear and read more than enough, in missionary reports, about the "door that is opening" in such and such a place or of what will come to pass "when the Lord pours Himself forth," or of the "plummet being in the hands of our Zerubbabel" and such blossoming cant. There used to be before the extension of the telegraph, bold announcements of mighty things done, but there is more caution now, and missionary success is put in the category of Punch's grandmother, whose peculiarity it is to be "coming to come" but never getting here.

With the pagans of Bolivia, then, we may confidently predict this Baptist missionary will do little. Amongst the Catholics, of course, he can do nothing. In the English-speaking world, it may be readily admitted, when one of us has the misfortune to lose his faith, he may sometimes join himself externally to a sect. If he finds no religious consolation there, he has at least the comforts of the same civilization. But Spaniards, Italians and French rarely do that. They are too logical. With them it is Catholicity or nothing. They can't say good God and good devil in the same breath, nor pretend to worship the Creator in a manner not prescribed by Him but chosen by themselves.

A friend, writing me from California lately, expresses it thus:

"As to religion out here, we have all the denominations known in Canada, and quite a few of our own invention, some of them not very reputable. But I notice that the Spaniards and Portuguese and Italians rarely join them. They are either good Catholics or nothing at all. They laugh at making your own terms with the Almighty; and that is their interpretation of the rule of private judgment."

And what is thus described as existing now in one definite place has been visible all over the world since Protestantism was. For Protestantism is essentially local, and can do nothing—but mischief—outside the limits of its own state or language.

And this, I suppose, is the reason why for over two hundred years, it never even thought of carrying the gospel abroad, and why even yet it generally waits till commercial or military enterprise has opened roads and prepared ground for its reception.

But there is a still stranger reason for this conduct. These "missionaries" have no mission. Like professors who know nothing, or soldiers who have neither arms nor organization, the missionary without a mission, is a something that can hardly be thought of seriously. He may be a respectable man and very much in earnest, and full of kindly wishes towards his fellows; but what has that got to do with making him a messenger from heaven? In every respectable, well-meaning person, therefore, authorized to impose his views upon the world? or upon any one man in the world? Putting aside for the moment the glaring contradiction—visible to children—between claiming the right to judge for yourself and the right to force others not to judge for themselves, it is impossible not to think of this Baptist emissary, as a veritable busy-body, a herald of disorder and violation of law, unless he can show credentials from some one having acknowledged authority to furnish them. Who is that some one; and what is his competence in these matters? Is it McMaster University? We were personally acquainted with the late Senator, and admired him for his great business capacity and many private virtues; but we never heard him making any claim to be a fountain-head of spiritual power. He had too much sense for that. The university is the creature of his money and of a statute of the Canadian parliament. Nothing very spiritual about either of these. But, mayhap; the Baptist body itself is the bubbling source of jurisdiction to act in the kingdom of God. No, that can't be, for it does not even claim to be such kingdom. It is only, at best, a department in it, and, perhaps (certainly, for us) is not even that.

There remains then nothing but the bible; but it is very severe indeed upon the attempt to go without being sent. St. Paul cannot repress his contempt for such conduct. "How can they preach," he says, "unless they be sent." What is the good of them? How can earth rise above earth, or the merely natural generate the supernatural? Man can plough and sow indeed, but it is God who gives the increase through this ordinance in the law of nature, and so man can talk and exhort, and instruct in human wisdom, but unless the divine ordinance of mission be there, he can never lift the worldly above itself and be a preacher. For preaching differs from other human speech in this, that it has a seed of the heavenly in it, quickened into life and preserved by the power of Christ in all those whom He has sent. "Behold I send you," He says. There is the grant of power. Preaching is the use of it, and without it nothing, neither eloquence nor logic, the persuasiveness of natural piety, can be even in the nature of preaching.

This poor gentleman then, who goes so far away may have the best motives and kindest intentions. He will do no good to the souls of the people he visits, because he lacks the commission which is the channel of divine grace to man, lifting him above himself, and making his instructions Christ-like in form and efficacy, in a word, preaching and not mere natural talk.

A Business Opening.

MARA BRECHIN, Feb. 7th, 1898.

A constant reader of your valuable paper would like to let the many over crowded towns and cities of Ontario know the grand opening there is in the Village of Brechin, for a hardware merchant. It is situated less than a mile from Brechin Station, on the Midland Division of Grand Trunk, and contains two churches, two schools, a doctor, post office, telegraph office, two hotels, four stores, three blacksmith shops, one hardware, grist mill, a butcher, two tailors and several mechanics. It is surrounded by a rich agricultural country where building and improving are continually going on. There is only one hardware between Beaverton and Orillia, a distance of twenty-five miles. House rent and fuel low. A CONSTANT READER.

St. Patrick's School.

HONOR ROLL FOR FEBRUARY.

Form IV.—Excellent—W. Tobin, G. O'Donoghue, J. Adamson, N. Schreiner, J. Costello, J. McCandlish, M. Dumphey, P. Flanagan. Good—Paul Sacco, J. Dillon.

Form III.—Senior Third—Excellent—E. Meehan, J. O'Hearn, W. Hanna, B. Roche. Good—J. Halloran. Junior Third—Excellent—E. Malone, L. Mackay, W. Warran, T. McDonald, L. Coffey. Good—J. Tobin, J. Dolan, G. Gilmour, F. Ryan.

Form II.—Excellent—C. Gallagher, B. Wells, H. O'Donoghue, E. Halloran. Good—G. Giblin, F. Gallagher, J. Gilmour, F. Boehler, J. O'Toole, J. Tobin.

DYSPEPSIA OR INDIGESTION is occasioned by the want of action in the biliary ducts, loss of vitality in the stomach to secrete the gastric juices, without which digestion cannot go on; also being the principal cause of Headache. Parmelee's Vegetable Pills taken before going to bed, for a while, never fail to give relief and effect a cure. Mr. F. W. Ashdown, Ashdown, Ont., writes: "Parmelee's Pills are taking the lead against ten other makes which I have in stock."

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THE GOLDEN KLONDIKE.

AN ENORMOUS RUSH OF GOLD SEEKERS GOING IN.

Some Sound Advice from One Who Has Made the Trip, and Knows Something of the Hardships the Gold Seekers Must Undergo.

In the rush towards the golden fields of the Klondike, there are thousands who are ill-fitted to stand the strain of hardship and exposure, which are inseparable from that trip. Illness, disease and death is almost certain to claim many of the ill-prepared adventurers. The following letter from one who has undergone the hardships of the trip will prove interesting to those who intend going into the desolate but gold laden north:—

SKAGWAY, Dec. 12th, 1897.

DEAR SIRS.—My object in writing this letter is to give a word of advice to those who contemplate going to the Yukon gold fields. For ten years I have followed the occupation of prospecting, timber estimating and mining, and the hardships and privations which one has to undergo, are enough to wreck the strongest constitution. In the spring of 1897 I was stricken with pleurisy, as the result of exposure. I recovered from this, but it left behind the seeds of disease which manifested themselves in the form of heart and kidney troubles. I managed to reach Vancouver, but did not have much hopes of recovering I was advised, however, to give Dr. Williams' Pink Pills a trial and at first purchased but two boxes. Before these were gone I found beyond a doubt that they were helping me, and continued the use "put me on my feet again," to use a common expression. I then engaged to go to the Yukon country and only those who have made the trip to Dawson City can form even the faintest conception of the hardships that have to be borne in making the trip. Before starting I added to my outfit two dozen boxes of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills and I can honestly say no part of my outfit proved of such invaluable service to me, and I would strongly urge every man who goes in to take a supply with him, as he will find the need of such a tonic and upbuilder of the system on many occasions. I went in and returned to this place by the Dalton trail, which consists of 350 miles of old Indian trail, starting at Pyramid Harbor. In going over the trail one has at times to wade through mud more than a foot deep, and ford streams waist deep in ice cold waters. When I started for the Yukon my weight was only 140 pounds, and I now weigh 160 pounds, thanks to Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

I am soon starting for another trip to Dawson by the same route. This time, however, the travelling will be on snowshoes, and you may depend upon it Dr. Williams' Pink Pills will again form part of my outfit.

I write this letter for the two-fold purpose of telling you know what your medicine has done for me and urging those who go in to take a supply with them. Every man whether he is sick or well, who undertakes the trip to the Yukon will require something to brace him and keep his constitution sound in that country. I may say that my home is at Copper Cliff, Ont., where my wife now resides.

Yours very truly,
JOHN PICHE.

Obituary.

The subject of these few lines—Mr. John Doherty—was reared from childhood in Toronto, and was therefore intimately known to many of our citizens. In youth he was regarded as a most agreeable companion, and in manhood he still held the esteem and friendship cemented in the long ago. For twenty-three years he occupied a position in the city Water Works Department, in which he earned the respect of his fellow-employes, by his readiness to aid on all occasions when more than ordinary pressure required prompt discharge of departmental duties. John Doherty was, boy and man, good-natured and generous to a fault; and when the news of his death appeared in the papers of last week, many were painfully surprised, not having heard even of his illness. He was in the prime of life, being only 50 years when cut down by the grim reaper, who spares neither age nor sex, but levels all with an icy and impartial hand. His loss is irreparable to the loved ones he leaves behind. May they be comforted by the consolation which comes from above, and may the soul of the departed rest in peace.

Consumption Cured.

An old physician, retired from practice, having had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma, and all Throat and Lung Affection, also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints, after having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, has felt it his duty to make it known to his suffering fellows. Actuated by this motive and a desire to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge, to all who desire it, this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail by addressing with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. NOYES, 820 Powers' Block, Rochester, N.Y.

Be careful to avoid with great diligence those things in thyself which do commonly displease thee in others.

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Western Assurance Company.

The annual meeting of Shareholders was held at the Company's office in this city yesterday. The President the Hon. Geo. A. Cox, occupied the chair.

The following Annual Report of the Directors, with accompanying Financial Statement, was then read by the Secretary, and, on motion, adopted, viz.:—

FORTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

The Directors beg to submit herewith a statement of the results of the transactions of the Company for the year 1897, together with the Assets and Liabilities at the 31st December last, and the Auditors' report thereon.

The balance at the credit of Revenue Account is $149,846.05, and there has been a gain of $18,381.16 in the value of securities, as compared with their market price a year ago.

Two half-yearly dividends, at the rate of ten per cent. per annum, have been declared out of this year's earnings, and $68,226.21 added to the Reserve Fund.

The amount of the estimated liability upon risks now on the Company's books is $774,484.51, and a net surplus is shown over capital and all liabilities of $379,472.91.

GEO. A. COX,
President.

Toronto, 18th February, 1898.

SUMMARY OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Total cash income	$2,283,632 48
Total expenditure, including appropriation for losses under adjustment	2,133,787 43
Balance	$ 149,845 05
Appreciation in value of securities	18,381 16
Profit for the year	$ 168,226 21
Dividends on stock	$ 100,000 00
Total assets	2,415,088 41
Reserve fund	1,155,134 42
Cash capital	1,000,000 00
Subscribed capital	1,000,000 00
Security to policy-holders	3,155,134 42

The election of Directors for the ensuing year was then proceeded with and resulted in the unanimous re election of the following gentlemen, viz.:—Hon. Geo. A. Cox, Hon. S. C. Wood, Messrs. Robert Beaty, G. R. R. Cockburn, Geo. McMurrich, H. N. Baird, W. R. Brock, J. K. Osborne, and J. J. Kenny.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors held subsequently, Hon. Geo. A. Cox was re-elected President, and Mr. J. J. Kenny Vice-President, for the ensuing year.

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