

## Our Contributors.

### CANADIAN PLAY-GROUNDS.

BY KNOXIAN.

It is perhaps neighbourly and fair that a considerable number of Canadians should spend their vacation around Portland and at other seaside resorts in Uncle Sam's large country. A large number of Americans come over here every summer. We are always glad to see them, and especially glad to take their money. They are very agreeable visitors, as a rule, and spend their money freely. It is perhaps right that there should be reciprocity in the holiday business, and that Canadians should go over there occasionally. Apart from considerations of health, it does our people good to see how their neighbours live, and even Yankees may get a "point" or two in Canada.

But positively there is no reason why Canadians should go off their own soil for a first-class holiday unless they wish so to do. Nature has given us some of the best play-grounds in the world. A man who cannot find recreation in Canada has no constitution, or no money, or he is very ignorant of the resources of his own country. The number of places of recreation between Halifax and Port Arthur, the number of good trips between these points, would fill a guide-book with much better matter than guide-books often contain. Beginning at the East where the wise men live, the

#### MARITIME PROVINCES

afford a splendid play-ground for Western Canadians. Everybody who goes East should visit Halifax. Viewed as to streets and houses the capital of Nova Scotia is not the finest city in America, to put the matter mildly, but viewed as to people it has no rival. An Ontario minister never knows what it is to be "taken in," in the good sense of the term until he visits Halifax. The typical Halifax Presbyterian has a hear: as large as a park lot. He leaves his business at any hour, takes you around and shows you the sights, drives you out to the North Arm, invites you to his house and lionizes you generally. Take this supreme test of Halifax hospitality: You may run in on Brother Murray at the *Witness* office during business hours, ask him all manner of questions, interrupt him when he is agonizing over his editorials and the printers are yelling for "copy," and the worst punishment he ever inflicts is to ask you out to his farm for tea. Of course you always go. When there you can easily find adjectives to describe the farm, but there are no words in the language that can do justice to the genial atmosphere of that home. And Brother Murray is not the most attractive feature in that home either. Enough said.

St. John is a good place to go to, and if you are fortunate enough to fall into the hands of Senator Boyd, or the genial elder of St. David's, who resides next door, or almost any representative Presbyterian, you will be sorry but once in the city and that will be when you have to leave. Prince Edward Island everybody knows is a second paradise. There are many good routes in these Provinces to take a pleasant tour on and any number of good places for bathing. In fact the territory down there is so small that you can take a run to the sea coast from almost any point.

Coming westward we strike the

#### LOWER ST. LAWRENCE,

which has always been and will always be a splendid place for recreation. Nature intended that gulf as a cooling-off place for Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec and the surrounding country. It is a place in which you can cool off quickly—in thirty seconds if you get into the water. The air is invigorating and the fog on the south shore is all that could be desired. The sail up the Saguenay is unlike anything else in the world and must remain so until the water has time to cut a similar channel in some other rock. The colleges may be consolidated and the deceased wife's sister married before that takes place. Taking it for all in all the Lower St. Lawrence is one of the best places for recreation on the Continent, and thousands go there to recreate. Another line of steamers might bring thousands more.

Nobody needs to be told anything about the sail down our noble river from Kingston to Quebec. The Thousand Islands are always charming; the rapids always exciting; the jump at Lachine always stirs the blood. No river in America, not even the Hudson, equals the St. Lawrence as a route for tourists,

#### MUSKOKA

is the breathing-place and play-ground for Western Ontario. Nature intended Muskoka for that purpose. It certainly never was intended for agricultural purposes. If it had been, nature would have put a little more soil on the rocks. There are no minerals there and the timber will soon be turned into boards. Muskoka and Lake Superior are the lungs of Ontario, Muskoka being the right lung. When you enter Muskoka from the south the Northern Railway puts you down at Gravenhurst. The central figure on the platform during the season is A. P. Cockburn, M.P. Mr. Cockburn is not a man of many words; he does not "gush" and call you "dear brother" nor anything of that kind; but when you go aboard one of his trim boats you find clergymen travel for half-fare. That pleases you immensely. Leaving Gravenhurst you go to dinner and if there is any half-fare about that part of the business the fault is your own. From Gravenhurst to Rosseau or Port Cockburn the scenery for quiet beauty is unsurpassed in America. There is nothing of its kind anywhere that surpasses Lake Joseph. One of the best things about Muskoka is that when there you see a large number of your friends. The distances are not great and as there are thousands of tourists, you meet somebody every hour that you are pleased to meet. The left lung of Ontario consists of

#### LAKE HURON AND LAKE SUPERIOR.

On these fresh water oceans there are three splendid lines of steamers by which a tourist can go to Port Arthur or Duluth. The trip is one of the most bracing and health-giving in America. There is a fine inside trip from Collingwood to the Sault, across to Mackinaw and return. Besides these noted places for recreation, a tired man can find rest and cool breezes at a slight cost in almost any of the towns on Lake Huron, Lake Simcoe, or the Georgian Bay. All any one needs to find a good play-ground in any part of Canada is a little time, a little money and a little common sense.

Among the many things that we should be thankful for in Canada are the many inviting and healthful spots where weary workers can find recreation and rest.

P.S.—This contributor has no *pass* on any line of steamers. That is a source of deep regret to him at present and may be one reason why he does not give any particular line a "puff." Had he a pass like some of his brethren of the quill he might be able to tell the readers of THE PRESBYTERIAN what line they should go by. A *pass* throws great light on that subject. As an educator a *pass* is a great success.

#### OUR COLLEGES—THEIR CONSOLIDATION.

MR. EDITOR,—For several years the "College Question," as it is called, has been much discussed. Its discussion has had a place in the various Church Courts and much has been written concerning it in various periodicals. The question has also been much talked of by the people up and down the Church. The opinion that we have too many Colleges has often been vigorously emphasized, and two years ago the proposal to consolidate our college work in some way came before the Assembly at Toronto. This year it came up again in the Assembly at Montreal, and the discussion of the subject was full, fair and candid. Mr. Charlton, M.P., deserves great credit for the interest he has taken in this important matter, for the discussion will no doubt do good in the end, and open up the way for the Church to enter on some definite policy for all future action in regard to our college work. After prolonged discussion the question of consolidation was put in charge of a large and representative committee to consider the whole subject during the year and report to next Assembly.

It is a hopeful sign to find so many intelligent laymen taking such a deep interest in our various colleges, and it is only reasonable that those who so largely support these institutions should have placed before them all possible information touching our college work. If the feeling so many seem to have, that something should be done to unite certain of our colleges, be a well grounded one, then definite action should be taken without delay to secure that end. If, however, this feeling is ill-founded, then every effort should be made to remove misapprehension, and to give the people good reason why we cannot have consolidation. I for one believe that if the people of the Church as a whole have good common-sense reasons given them for either one opinion or the

other, they will intelligently shape their actions accordingly, and loyally and liberally support theological education. It may also be taken for granted that our professors and college authorities will accept whatever the Church deems to be the best course, taking into account all interests, to adopt. It is neither kind nor fair, however, to say that the professors, whom the Church has put in their present positions, should not express any opinion on matters of which they are surely well informed; and to hint that self-interest has something to do with the views of our college representatives is surely unjust.

The purpose of this article is to supply a small contribution to the discussion of this all-important subject, and my effort will be to lay before your readers as fair a statement as I can of the present position and prospects of our various colleges, and to give, if I can, some careful indication as to the probable issue, and to mark out what seems to me the best policy to adopt for future action. To secure as soon as possible a settled policy in regard to our colleges and theological education generally, is at present a great necessity.

What is pertinent to the subject may be considered under three heads:

I. The present position of the colleges.

II. Is their consolidation practicable?

III. If practicable, is it even desirable?

1. *The present position.*

When the Union of 1875 was effected it was found that in the four uniting Churches there were five colleges. Since that time the college at Winnipeg has had a theological faculty instituted, which gives the Presbyterian Church six theological schools. At the time of the union some of the leading men taking part in the negotiations wished the college question settled previous to union; but the desire for union was strong, and so it was effected, and the colleges were all brought into the United Church. To understand the present position of the colleges, and of the College Question, a few words may be said concerning each, beginning at the East. These remarks will be confined chiefly to the theological faculties and work in these colleges.

(1) *The Presbyterian College, Halifax.*—This was founded in 1848. There are three regular professors, eighteen students, and 204 graduates in theology, all but thirty-one of whom took their full course therein. The endowment is \$120,000, and the college is closely identified with Dalhousie College, with twelve professors, three of whom are supported by the Synod of the Maritime Provinces.

(2) *Morrin College, Quebec.*—This was founded in 1860, through the liberality of the late Joseph Morrin, M.D. It has two or three professors, with five or six students, and seventeen graduates in theology. There is also an efficient arts course in connection with the college. This institution cost the Church nothing except the contributions of the Presbytery of Quebec to the College Fund.

(3) *The Presbyterian College, Montreal.*—The charter was granted in 1865, but work did not begin in this college till 1867. It has four regular professors, about sixty students in various stages, and nearly 100 graduates in theology. Through the large-hearted liberality of several leading citizens of Montreal, splendid buildings and a considerable endowment have been provided. An effort is soon to be made to increase the endowment to \$250,000, which will place the college on a strong foundation.

(4) *Queen's University and College, Kingston.*—This was founded soon after 1832, and in 1837 was doing theological work. There are three regular professors in divinity, with several lecturers. There are thirty-four students in theology, and upwards of 100 graduates in the same department. Substantial and imposing buildings have recently been erected, and its endowment exceeds \$100,000. Well equipped arts, medical, and legal faculties make the institution a very complete one.

(5) *Knox College, Toronto.*—This was founded in 1844. It has three regular professors and a lecturer, with fifty-one students in theology, and as many more in various preparatory stages, making the whole number preparing in Toronto for the ministry about 110. The number of graduates is 384. Excellent buildings were erected about ten years ago, costing about \$120,000, and the endowment is now over \$250,000. An effort, which is likely to succeed, is being made to raise the endowment up to \$200,000.

(6) *Presbyterian College, Winnipeg.*—This was