

Dominion Presbyterian

Devoted to the Interests of the Family and the Church

\$1.50 per Annum

MONTREAL, TORONTO, WINNIPEG

Single Copies, 5¢

Steam Navigation.*

The two most potent agencies in the development of the new world have been undoubtedly steam navigation and railway inter-communication. Canada has the honor of possessing the longest railway lines in the world; and it has the honor, also, of having built the first vessel to cross the Atlantic wholly by steam power. This was the "Royal William," designed by James Goudie, marine architect, of Quebec, and launched from the shipyard of Messrs. Campbell & Black at that city, April 29th, 1831.

In 1833 she crossed the Atlantic from Picton to Cowes, in the Isle of Wight, in nineteen and a half days. After a short time at Cowes, where she was painted and furnished up, she steamed up to Gravesend in fine style, the first vessel to cross the Atlantic propelled by the motive power of steam alone." From this beginning has grown the Canadian steam marine, now, or rather on December 31st, 1896, numbering 1,762 vessels, with a gross tonnage of 251,176, divided among the provinces as follows: Ontario, 41.1 per cent.; Quebec, 32.3 per cent.; British Columbia, 10 per cent.; Nova Scotia, 7.9 per cent.; New Brunswick, 3.8 per cent.; Manitoba, 2.6 per cent.; Prince Edward Island, 2 per cent. Mr. Jas. Croil, in his extremely interesting book, has given a complete history of steam navigation from the earliest attempts to the present day; he has detailed the origin, fortunes and misfortunes of the great Atlantic steamship companies; told the story of steam to India and the East and its adoption in the British navy; he has devoted the last portion of his book to the development of steam navigation on the St. Lawrence, the Great Lakes, and throughout the Dominion; and in an appendix he has described the latest novelties in steam shipbuilding, including Mr. Knapp's roller steamboat, exhibited in Toronto Bay in the summer of 1897. Although the book bristles with figures and statistics, there are so many accounts of disasters and perils, so many interesting personal and other sketches, that there is not a dull page from cover to cover. While it will be an authority for the searcher after facts, it will also afford pleasant reading to the general reader. It has many portraits of men prominent in shipping circles, and pictures of ships; and is furnished with an excellent index. We wish we had space for some extracts, but we can only quote the author's conclusion "that of all the triumphs of mind over matter in this nineteenth century, nothing has contributed more to the advancement of civilization and the spread of Christianity, to the wealth of nations and the convenience and comfort of the human race, than the marvellous development of steam navigation, which will ever be identified with the history of the illustrious reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria."

*Steam Navigation and its Relations to the Commerce of Canada and the United States, by James Croil, Montreal, with illustrations and portraits. Toronto: William Briggs; Montreal: The Montreal News Company, Ltd., 1896.

It is said that the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions has declared itself ready to enter on work in the Philippine Islands, provided the opportunity is given and funds contributed for that specific purpose. The church in Yonkers, N.Y., of which Dr. G. F. Pentecost is the pastor, has contributed the first gift, \$1,000, for this purpose.

In Memoriam.*

"In Memoriam" is, to say the very least, one of the great poems of the nineteenth century, and is worthy to stand by the masterpieces of any century. It is a collection of poems which show Tennyson's varied powers of thought and expression. It deals with the great problems of doubt and faith as they are suggested by sin and sorrow. It reflects the life of the poet, the life of humanity, and, in a special sense, the life of the century in which it has its origin. During the past quarter of a century it has found many sympathetic readers, and has been made the subject of much careful study. Recently a French scholar has attempted the heroic task of translating it into his mother tongue, and has succeeded in showing once more that the translation of poetry is exceedingly difficult; even in the most skillful hands the poetry is apt to vanish in the process. Recently a high-class literary journal printed a dialogue between Henry King and Arthur Hallam as to the merits of the two memorial poems. It was well done, if that kind of thing is to be done at all. We mention these incidents now simply to show the wide-spread and increasing influence of Tennyson's great poem. We desire, therefore, to give a cordial welcome to Dr. King's careful piece of work. It is evident that he did not study the poem simply for the purpose of writing upon it; but has evidently gone over it sympathetically, and then critically, so that the present volume is the result of many years of communion with the poem. The preface tells us that "This small work on 'In Memoriam' had its origin in a course of lectures delivered to ladies in Manitoba College in the winter and spring of the present year," but of course Dr. King was well prepared for such a class before he took it in hand. He has, however, availed himself of the best work of others in this department and on important points is prepared to criticize the critics. It is a good thing, both for himself and the class, when one possessing the philosophical and theological equipment of Dr. King can find time to take up a subject of this kind. "In Memoriam" is a poem specially suited for the study of the literary circles in connection with our Young People's Societies, and this book will prove a useful companion. The expositions are clear and not too lengthy, the notes on difficult phrases are brief and to the point; on important points that have divided the interpreters, the arguments are fairly weighed. For instance, we think Dr. King makes good the interpretation which refers to the words of the prologue, "Strong Son of God, immortal Love" to the personal Christ. The unsophisticated reader would naturally receive this impression, and, notwithstanding the contention of some commentators, it will bear the closest scrutiny. On smaller points there may be difference of opinion, but the great thing is for the student to try to read the poem for himself. It is generally admitted, however, that, taken as a whole, "In Memoriam" is a poem for which the average reader needs help, and in this "critical study" it is given in a manner that is both thorough and unpretentious.

A critical study of "In Memoriam" by the Rev. John King, M.A., D.D., Principal of Manitoba College, Winnipeg. G. N. Morang, Toronto.

Wild Roses and Snow

(Bassee Pyrenees).

How sweet the sight of roses
In English lanes of June,
When every flower uncloses
To meet the kiss of noon.

Roses both sweet and wild—
Seen where a valley closes
Mid mountain heights up-piled.
How strange the sight of roses—

Upon whose sides remaining
Is strewn the purest snow,
By its chill power restraining
The tide of Spring's soft glow.

Yet God who gave the pureness
To you fair mountain snow,
Gives also the secureness
Whereby these roses blow.

From "Pictures of Travel, and other Poems," by Mackenzie Bell. London: Hurst & Blackett.

At the recent session of the Federal Assembly of the Australian Presbyterian Churches, the principal business was the proposed union of all the Presbyterian churches of all the colonies. No immediate settlement of the question is probable, the trend of opinion inclining towards union in foreign missions and theological halls under the triennial assembly, with a judicial committee, as a court of final appeal from provincial assemblies.

The Rev. James MacGregor, D.D., minister of St. Columba's, Edinburgh, who is now the chaplain-in-attendance on the Queen, is a native of Scone, Perthshire, and is 66 years of age. In 1881 he accompanied the Marquis of Lorne when Governor-General of Canada in his visit to the Northwest Territory. Five years later he became chaplain to the Queen, and in 1891 he was elected Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

It may be said that the whole of Africa that is comfortably habitable by white men is under the British flag, or under British protection; and, again, that everything in Africa that pays dividends lies within the sphere claimed by the British Government. Practically what other nations have scrambled for has been John Bull's leavings.

Gen. Booth has admirers in Klondike. One of them has sent him a consignment of gold, which is to be sealed up in a small phial and exhibited at the coming Salvation Army exhibition. And in the meantime the General has an eye to the main chance; he invites other gold miners to "send their consignments along."

The Synod of Pennsylvania has voted that its size shall be reduced; that, hereafter when its numbers embrace all who have a right to be present, it will have 222 members. It will amply represent the powerful body of Presbyterians which occupies this field.

One hundred thousand gallons of whiskey were sold one day last week in a city saleroom. The sale realized about £20,000.