

NOTES BY A PROBATIONER.

THOUSAND ISLAND PARK. It is easier to save children than any other class. A man 99 years of age might be converted. It would be a great miracle of mercy. Cannot God, therefore, save a small sinner as well as a great sinner? It is hard to save a soul 70 years of age. It is easier to save a child. Childhood piety is the crowning glory of the redemptive scheme. It does not leave men in the power of the devil for a single year, much less for a number of years. Objections to this theory were considered. Some say "this is a very charming theory" but has it ever had an actual illustration. He said that some of the saintliest Christians never knew when they were converted. This theory of infant conversion he said was perfectly in harmony with the doctrines of original depravity. He believed in total depravity and in full salvation.

Many things he said are not often thought of but which ought to be said will be. Let the Almighty Lord Jesus and the Holy God and two parents gather round a cradle wherein is an infant child, and who will say that the salvation of that child may not be counted a moral certainty? Children can be converted and stay converted for 40 years. By reason of the lateness of the hour Dr. Bidwell was compelled to omit some parts of his lecture which doubtless tended to make the thread of his argument less connected than it would otherwise have appeared. Yet it was evidently the result of much thought and experience. The evening session was thinly attended. Many of the visitors had come home; others wanted recreation. Mr. Hughes, School Inspector, Toronto, in an amusing and useful manner pointed out common mistakes in teaching. The camp-fires were illuminating the grounds in a manner, picturesque and pleasing when I left at 8.30 p. m.

To a suggestion made by the genial pastor of the Metropolitan Church, I am indebted for the most profitable part of a really profitable trip. Mr. Briggs asked why I had not included a few days at the Sunday School Parliament in my calculations. At once I altered my plans and resolved to stay a few days at the Thousand Island Park. A few hours sail from Kingston on a cloudy but pleasant afternoon brought us to Cape Vincent. More than once, while looking over the side of the boat, I was surprised and at first frightened by seeing the bottom of the river quite distinctly. Clearer water than this is perhaps seldom crossed. After being subject to the usual custom official inspection we were allowed to take boat again for the Wellesley Island. The Thousand Islands scenery is said to be unrivalled. The channel of the broad St. Lawrence the most magnificent river in the world is covered with thousands of islands of wondrous shapes and diversified sizes. Islands may be seen square, oval, round, and of all other shapes. Some of them could be bused, while others have sufficient room to house a city's population. Bare, broken rocks are sandwiched among islands burdened with foliage. How carefully we had to look out for our heads! Some have been bought by gentlemen who are compelled to escape from the cares of life and the heat of cities every summer, and on them have been erected tiny, rustic cottages. Many others are gems of beauty; others have been taken possession of by a party of young men who have erected upon their rude tents, which afford them shelter for a few weeks during the hot season. Almost every inhabited island seemed to belong to some one, most of them were inhabited. Judging from the number of people to be seen here you might think that the great cities of America were deserted. A sail round the Wellesley Island confirms you in this opinion. The captain pointed out cottage after cottage possessed and occupied by names famed in literature and commerce. It was about 7 o'clock in the evening when our boat stopped at the Thousand Island Park wharf. Flags—American and English—floated above us. They united to welcome comers from both countries. In fact, the Camp-ground is well adapted to promote unity of feeling among these peoples. Near to many of the populous cities of Canada, as well as to the American cities, it draws from both nations and blends the best people of both together. Four years ago, a company of Christian gentlemen, after much examination of sites, purchased a thousand acres on Wellesley Island, to be used for the religious good of the people. That the site was well chosen all admit who have seen it. That such a place, needed, the large numbers who annually visit here testify. Few more healthful places can be chosen by those who need a partial or entire rest. The coolness of the atmosphere never gives place to the heat and dust of most summer resorts. Its tent-life gives it an air of freshness which tourists enjoy, from which watering places soon lose. From the Camp-ground, or park, a wonderful variety of beautiful and extensive views of the clustering islands can be obtained. A sail more enchanting than the one around the Wellesley Island cannot be desired.

Although this is only the fourth year of the existence of the camp-ground association, yet its success seems to be assured. The trustees are anxious to retain the religious character of this organization. They make no money out of it. Money paid for lots sold is devoted towards payment of the purchase money of the park. Every possible attempt is made to preserve the sanctity of the Sabbath. During its 24 hours no boats are permitted to arrive or depart. Perhaps few forms of desecration are practised. Some, however, do trespass. With Chancellor Haven as President religious people will feel safe in believing that all will be done that can be to check every form of Sabbath breaking.

Camp meetings were for a time the only kind of assemblies gathered here. They are still the chief. Two Esthetic and Scientific Conferences of a very superior and successful character have been held. This time for the first time a gathering of Young Men's Christian Associations was conducted. Two Sabbath School Parliaments had been held before this season. Part of the sessions of the third I was privileged to attend. A small admission fee gave me admission to the grounds. What a throng of people were hurrying to and fro. Canadians if not forming the majority were at least in equal proportions to Americans, for half of the money taken as entrance was Canadian currency. First I went and

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for meals. These can be had at the rate of \$8 per day. The dining hall is large and a good table is kept. The Sabbath previous to the one I spent there about 400 persons partook of dinner in it. To see a meal in "full swing" is both a busy and an animating sight. A few days spent in this delightfully healthy and enchanting neighborhood, made the influence of religion act as a powerful appetizer.

This Island Home has many of the comforts of city life. Regular mails are landed from America and Canada. Newspapers—religious and secular—can be obtained. A telegraph office, too, does a large business. Boats from various points, are arriving and departing regularly, bringing and taking away crowds of visitors. While pleasure or health is perhaps the first thought with many, yet it is cheering to think that pleasure and health are both sought under the influence of religion. Here we have a religious resort popular as a boat race in the Maritime Provinces. The programme of

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL PARLIAMENT was filled up from the 13th to the 22nd of August. A regular daily series of services was held. By request of the Trustees persons are expected to retire at 10 and not to rise previous to 6, or rather all noise between these hours is expected to cease. Seven is the breakfast hour. Eight is set apart for cottage prayers. From 9 to 12 is devoted to Normal Class work. 12.30 is dinner hour. Three to 4.30 is devoted to lectures. Six is a service of song. And from 8 to 9 to addresses, &c. Perhaps few take a full day's fare; but each select as much as may be deemed desirable.

The tent in which the service is held is large enough to accommodate nearly 2000 persons. The platform—well supplied with maps and black board—is usually occupied by ministers and other Christian workers. A well organized choir under the charge of Mr. Tandy leader of Kingston Methodist church and Editor of the Kingston Whig was ready on all occasions to render suitable selections of religious praise. Everybody commended the very superior singing. The Secretary of the Parliament said he never before had such good music. While it could not be charged with lacking the artistic finish, it was sufficiently hearty to induce nearly everyone to add his part toward making it congregational. From the predominating number of Methodist clergymen present, it was easy to see that it was a Methodist institution. But from the Presbyterians, Congregationalists, &c., present, it was also evident that it was of a Catholic character. The Rev. F. Widmer, M. A., pastor of the Methodist Church, Pittsfield, Mass., was pastor and Superintendent. He is active and of a business turn of mind and withal really devout. He is admirably suited for the leadership of such gatherings. From the varied talent represented by the programme a great treat was to be expected. With thinkers and writers like Clark, Braden, Dr. Townsend and Mrs. Alden (Fanny), and educationalists like Dr. MacVicar and Prof. Bennett, and theologians like Dr. Clark and platform men like Dr. Potts, Dr. Bidwell, and Dr. Castle, it was patent that the Trustees had done all that they could to secure a great success. Their efforts proved eminently successful. Everybody pronounced this last, the most profitable Parliament. From the papers I learn that the correctness of the opening day were of a pleasant and optimistic nature. Representative Canadians and Americans each extended to the other hearty welcomes. All agreed that as union was impossible the best thing was to try to live peaceably alongside each other, and emulate each other in all good works. The lecture by Clark Braden on "The Inner and the Outer Christian Thought and Skeptical Thought," is highly spoken of. Prof. Bennett's description of Oriental lands was said to be very instructive. Dr. Bidwell, as usual, made a profound impression by discussing such subjects as "The Bible the Text Book of Imagination," and "The Prophecy of Simeon over the Infant Jesus." I arrived in time to hear

A. O. VAN LENNEP, a Greek, I believe, by birth (but he has lived so long in the East that in dress and appearance he is a real Orientalist,) give practical illustrations of Jewish customs. The different kind of dresses spoken of in the Bible were exhibited and the references to them explained. The passage referring to the women grinding in the mill would be better understood after he had illustrated than ever before by most of his audience. His oriental museum was well worth a visit. Specimens of Scripture articles were in abundance. Van Lennep was in attendance all the time to afford amusement and instruction (sometimes there was too much of the former with a deficiency of the latter). After he had finished,

PROF. BENNETT, OF SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY, in a most entertaining manner, gave us his impressions of Bible lands. A lecture he did not attempt, but in conveying information he was very successful. To me it was a novel thing to see him standing on the platform and answering questions about sites, &c. He was perfectly self contained and ready for every questioner. After the audience was dismissed I began to feel myself alone even amongst so many brethren. However, Dr. Bennett spoke, in fact made himself known to me—and while I was attempting to make him understand what corner of the earth I had come from, Dr. Potts came upon the stage. He was thoroughly at home on the Camp-ground. In my next I intend to give outlines of some of the addresses heard and an idea of some of the work I saw done.

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