

promising a field, come what will; yet unless there is sent speedy and liberal aid from individuals, churches or society, the work which has been undertaken cannot be sustained.

If we are to do a work here now is the time. Already the way is open and Brother Mackay is daily expected. We trust that the Lord will own His work. Can we depend on our brethren to follow it up with men and means. A substantial answer in the affirmative will greatly cheer the brethren in Manitoba and especially your co-labourer.

W. EWING.

Winnipeg, July 14th, 1879.

LETTERS FROM MANITOBA.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

DEAR SIR,—Having been pressed by several friends to give a few weeks' evangelistic labour here in connection with the Rev. Wm. Ewing's proposed settlement in the county, I left Kingston on the 8th and arrived in Winnipeg on the 15th. I went to Sarnia by rail, took passage in the steamer "Ontario," of the Beatty line, to Duluth. Capt. Robertson and all the officers were very kind and attentive. I held a service in the steerage every evening, and found the passengers contented and happy. On two occasions we held a service in the cabin. We spent the greater part of Sabbath, the 13th, in Duluth. I attended the Congregational Church, and enjoyed the service very much. Rev. Mr. Ingalls is the pastor. In passing through the State of Minnesota one is struck with the vastness of the prairie plains, extending over hundreds of miles, and so very few houses to be seen, on a great part of the road. The accommodation on the Red River flat bottom boats is very inferior, and the poor traveller has to pay sweetly for everything. They even rent their blacking brushes for 15 cents a shine.

Mr. Ewing was waiting me at the landing place, I was glad to meet him, and he was just as glad to see me. Having spent six days here, looking round and working for the Master, I can say this is a great field of labour, "the harvest is great but the labourers are few." I found Mr. Ewing had done a good deal of hard work during the fortnight he had preceded me, calling on friends, and finding out persons who were identified with the denomination in other places. We also went on a short missionary tour as far as Selkirk, and had some little experience of the mud and mosquitoes peculiar to this great country. On Sabbath the 13th he conducted his first service in the Temperance Hall, with an attendance of about forty persons. Some of the friends remained at the close of the service, and gave him words of welcome and encouragement.

Wednesday, the day after my arrival here, we called on most of the ministers and told them that we intended having a series of evangelistic services, and would be glad if they united with us. We met with the utmost kindness and cordiality, and the assurance that there was abundance of room and work for all. One of them only endeavoured to show that the field was fully occupied, and all the people thoroughly cared for. But as a proof positive that this dear minister was mistaken, on the very next day we discovered a poor woman, who had been laid aside for nearly five months, with an illness that will likely end in death, who had not had a visit from any minister in the city although living within ten minutes' walk of all the churches. The pastors here, however, are good, earnest, hard-working men, and seeking to do their duty as far as they can overtake it.

On Thursday night we had a meeting in the Temperance Hall, when most of the ministers were present, two of them taking part, Rev. Mr. German (Methodist), and Rev. Mr. McDonald (Baptist). The attendance was encouraging.

We could not have the hall for a meeting on Friday, but we visited and gave away tracts to the strangers and idlers, of whom there are so many in this place. I have had strangers coming up to me again and again since coming here and saying, "How are you? I saw you in such a place, and I am so glad to see you here," some of them persons who were brought to

Christ in connection with services held in other places. Saturday Rev. Mr. Paterson, of Scotland, and I made arrangements for a service on Sabbath in a large tent belonging to a saloon-keeper, and used during the week as a place for a walking match.

Saturday evening took part in the Y. M. C. A. prayer meeting. This institution is only two months old and is full of life and vigour. I trust they will retain it and not become half-dead as so many of our Y. M. C. A's. are in Ontario.

Lord's day morning W. Ewing preached, this was the first morning service held, there were over twenty persons present. At 4 o'clock I conducted an open-air service at the immigrant sheds. At 6 o'clock Revs. Paterson, Ewing and I addressed the meeting arranged for in the large tent on Main street. There were nearly 200 persons present, and some of them of the rough class, although they were most attentive.

At 7 o'clock we had our evening service in the Temperance Hall. There were about eighty persons present, a decided increase on the first evening. Two persons were spoken to as inquirers—a young man and a young woman. A number of Christians remained to pray.

Thus far we are encouraged in our work here, and have reason to thank God and go on seeking to lead souls to Christ. I am astonished to think that our churches have not taken hold of the work here before now.

Winnipeg is doubtless going to be a large city; it must be so from its very position. There is an immense amount of business done, I can see the progress made in building since I arrived a week ago. Acres and dollars seem to occupy the minds of the great majority to the exclusion of the things of God.

The work here cannot, however, be carried on without money; rent and boarding are expensive. Mr. Ewing is deserving of encouragement and support, he is thoroughly alive to the importance of the great work he has undertaken in the name of the Lord.

The Baptists began their work here nearly six years ago with one member, they have now a membership of nearly one hundred, a very comfortable church building, and they are paying their pastor \$1,000 a year. Mr. Ewing and I were greatly disappointed to-day to hear from Geo. Hague, Esq., who has manifested such a lively interest in this mission, that he could not visit Winnipeg at the present time.

Any of our friends who desire to assist Mr. Ewing in his work can do it through Rev. Dr. Wilkes, the Secretary-Treasurer of the Missionary Society.

More about the country in another communication. We have meetings this week. "Brethren pray for us."

Yours in service, R. MACKAY.

Winnipeg, Manitoba, 21st July, 1879.

CANADA CONGREGATIONAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

Since my last notice, July 5th, the following new subscriptions have been received:—One share: G. W. Moss, Montreal; J. C. Wright, Franklin; the church at Franklin; Bethesda Church and Sabbath school; Vespra and Rugby; Charles Pedley, B.A., Burford; making seven. Also, two shares: P. H. Burton, Toronto; R. W. Wallace, M.A., B.D., \$5; Whitby Church, \$5.

We now require 14½ new subscribed shares to complete the 100, and secure those contingent on such completion. Surely these will not be lacking.

The money has been received from the following, being one share each: L. P. Adams, W. H. Heudebourck, H. Wilkes, G. Cornish, J. H. McFarlan, Western Church, Toronto, Ottawa Church, Eaton Church, K. M. Fenwick, Watford Zion Church, Cowansville Church, R. McKay, Danville Church, Unionville Church, St. Catharines Church, Geo. Purkis, Robert Brown, D. McCallum, Mrs. Leming, Annie Robertson, G. S. Climie, Mrs. Geo. Robertson, J. Hendry and brother, Belleville Church, John Heath, Mrs. Learmont, G. W. Moss, J. C. Wright, Franklin Church, Bethesda Church and Sabbath school, Vespra and Rugby, Charles Pedley, and from R. W. Wallace, \$5; Whitby Church, \$5; Robert Mills, half share, \$4.

Also from those subscribing two shares and upwards as follows: S. N. Jackson, Emmanuel Church, Montreal, Embro Church, Guelph Church, P. H. Burton, each two shares. Stouffville Church one and a quarter, Mr. Thomas Hendry three shares, and Mr. Geo. Hague five shares.

The few subscribers who have not remitted will please do so at an early date. HENRY WILKES.

Montreal, 21st July, 1879.

P. S.—Since writing the above I have received three new shares from Sherbrooke and Lennoxville, leaving only eleven to be subscribed in order to secure the seventeen and a half promised on condition that one hundred are raised. H. W.

News of the Churches.

REV. JOHN ALLWORTH, B.A., is supplying Guelph during the pastor's absence.

REV W. H. WARRINER exchanges with Rev. Jos. Griffith for August 10th and 17th.

SHEDDEN.—The contract for the new Congregational Church at Shedden station of the Canada Southern Railway has been given, and the work commenced.

OTTAWA.—The annual Sunday school pic-nic was held in Gilmore's grove, Chelsea, about nine miles from the city, on the 17th July. Six large vans conveyed the excursionists and the children to the place, the party numbering about 150. A very enjoyable day was spent; games, rambles, and a large fire balloon, sent off by the pastor, constituted the entertainment, and abundance of singing on the way home. No accident or misadventure marred the pleasure of the occasion.

PETROLIA.—A Council consisting of the Revs. R. Hay, H. Colwell, W. H. A. Claris, W. J. Cuthbertson, and Messrs. Scott (Forest) and Lamb (Watford), assembled at Petrolia on Monday evening, the 14th instant, and organized a Congregational Church. Ten persons—five males and five females—entered into fellowship, and three others gave their names to enter at an early date. A further special meeting in recognition of this movement was held on Sunday, the 27th instant, when the Revs. H. Colwell, W. H. A. Claris and R. Hay assisted the Rev. Mr. Lowry.

WINNIPEG.—The special meeting in the Temperance Hall on Sunday evening was well attended, and the services were conducted by the Rev. William Ewing, B.A., of Montreal. He selected his text from St. John, viii. chapter, 32 verse—"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." The reverend gentleman preached an able and interesting sermon from this text, speaking of Christ's teachings in regard to truth and freedom. Christ's teachings gave to the word what was needed in every-day life. If we sought earnestly after truth, we would assuredly find it. The rev. gentleman concluded his sermon with an exhortation to his hearers to seek after the truth as it was in Jesus. It was announced that the Rev. Mr. McKay, Evangelist, would preach on Thursday evening, and that divine service would again be held on next Sunday, both morning and evening. The attendance was fully large enough to warrant the successful starting of a church in the Congregational interest in this city.—Winnipeg Times.

AN original copy of the "Solemn League and Covenant" has recently been found in the possession of an intending emigrant who was in need of money to buy his outfit and had nothing left which he could dispose of but this ancient and interesting document, which had been given to him by his grandfather. He brought it to the Rev. T. Somerville of Blackfriars Parish Church, Glasgow, who submitted it to the Librarian of the Advocates' Library. This gentleman pronounced the document genuine, and the poor emigrant was speedily relieved from his pecuniary difficulties. On further examination it turned out to be the copy signed in the West Church, Edinburgh, and to contain the signatures of several persons well known in history.