

REV. JAMES H. MCLAREN

Pastor of Congregation Church, Princeton

NATIVE OF BAY FORTUNE

Is Spending a Vacation at His Old Home—Brief Review of His Life.

Rev. James H. McLaren, of Racine, Wisconsin, has entered upon the duties of pastor of the Congregational church, of Princeton, having accepted a call to fill this charge. Rev. McLaren comes among us highly recommended as an earnest and faithful Christian worker, and from what we hear, we are inclined to the opinion that he is destined to prove a most satisfactory laborer in this portion of the Lord's vineyard. Rev. McLaren was born in Bay Fortune, Prince Edward Island, Sept. 26, 1863, and has, therefore, entered upon the thirty-sixth year of his age. His parents were of Scotch descent, to use his own expression, "with just enough of Irish to make it interesting."

The oldest brother of Rev. McLaren, C. D., also a minister, was a missionary to Siam under the authority of the Presbyterian church, and a regular correspondent of the leading organ of that denomination—his writings in that capacity attracting wide attention. He was a young man of great promise, and his sudden death, caused by native cholera, was the occasion of general regret and wide comment. By the sudden death of his brother, the home circle was broken in upon, and James H., the subject of the present sketch and the next oldest son, decided to stand in the gap, conscious however, of the fact that he might never be able to fill it. Therefore, while working hard at a trade, he secured a few books and began once more to take up, as best he could, the studies which in his childhood he was obliged to abandon, as his little wages were needed at home to help "keep the wolf from the door." At last, after various struggles, he became a student at Harvard College, Cambridge, Mass., where under the able instruction of Prof. D. O. Bean—who from the beginning had a deep, special interest in him, and for whom he predicted his brilliant career—the young man made a creditable record in his advancement. In 1887 Mr. McLaren was admitted to Bangor Theological Seminary, from

which he graduated in 1890, and the same year was ordained over the church of Phillips and Strong, Maine. Here, in a wide and scattered field, he labored for over two years, preaching three times on Sunday and riding fourteen miles. Although urged to remain longer, he so felt the need of a more thorough preparation for the great work before him, that he entered Bowdoin College in the Junior year, but afterwards changed his plans and took a four-year course at Andover, Mass. He was then called to the Central church at Attleboro, Mass., and accepted with the privilege of still further prosecuting his studies in Brown University. After three years so spent, he entered Yale University for a final year of study; and from there he became pastor of the First Congregational church at Racine, Wisconsin, where his success, under difficulties, was most remarkable. Of course, the members of the church accepted his resignation with much regret, and upon his retirement passed the following preamble and resolutions by a unanimous vote: "Whereas, It is the wish of our pastor, the Rev. James H. McLaren, that the existing relations between us, as pastor and people, for the past eighteen months, be dissolved, therefore,

Resolved, That we, the members, of this church refuse to accept his resignation, and in doing so desire to affirm, in the most positive and earnest manner, our unshaken confidence and faith in the integrity and purity of his life, and to express our indebtedness to him for those eighteen months of helpful and inspiring ministry; our appreciation of the eloquent, catholic, yet evangelical character of his preaching, and our gratitude for his tender and sympathetic pastoral ministrations."

2. During these eighteen months of labor amongst us, there have been created and cemented friendships and relations that no formal dissolution can sever, but which will be remembered through the years to come.

3. By the young people of the church, many of whom have been added to its membership during his pastorate and who have so nobly and loyally sustained and supported him, his resignation will be regarded as an irreparable loss.

4. That we cordially and affectionately recommend him as a faithful and eloquent minister of the gospel, to any church where in the dispensation of Providence, he may be called upon to labor." As a preacher it is said, Rev. McLaren is ranked among the foremost in the younger ministry. He prepares his sermons with great care, but speaks usually without notes. His memory is remarkable and his mind original and creative—some of his original illustrations having won prizes. It is said of him, further, that he frequently lays aside a sermon prepared, and preaches some new line of thought which the occasion inspires. Many of his finest discourses have been given in this way. Several of his special sermons have been printed and widely read. In prayer he seems to be completely at home, leading the weary and troubled soul to sweet safety and rest. His influence with young men has always been marked and powerful. As a poet he has written some pieces, which the press has characterized as "Gems of Literature."

Those who know Rev. McLaren best, declare that the quality which gives him special power, and that for which he is most loved, is his wonderful sympathy and kindness of heart. He often takes the trouble of others to heart to such a degree as has more than once unmanned him, for the time being, for his work. He is always the friend of the poor, and class distinctions he positively refused to recognize. Brave, strong and fearless on the one hand, on the other he is gentle and confiding as a little child. In the company of philosophers or statesmen, he can be either, and in the presence of children he can be as one of them. He has worked his own way through school and is in the truest sense a "self made man," having more than once refused help from those who were interested in him. It is further said of him, that wit and humor are his, and he has lectured on these subjects with gratifying success at Chautauqua and elsewhere. One of his weaknesses is said to be the lack of self appreciation. He loves to please and considers it one's duty to do so; but he cares not for praise as such.

Rev. McLaren is a hard and faithful worker, as we are advised from newspaper accounts before us, and no congregation can sleep or shirk under his administration. Of himself he says: "I am bound to help make the world a little better place to live in before I leave it. I want to see every man, woman and child have an equal chance to make an honest living, in sight of man and God. I try to adapt myself as best I can to the real but before my thought is a continual vision of the ideal world, and a larger humanity. To hasten this I live and labor, and for this end I would be glad to die."

Rev. McLaren was a delegate from Wisconsin to the International Sunday

AT THE CITADEL

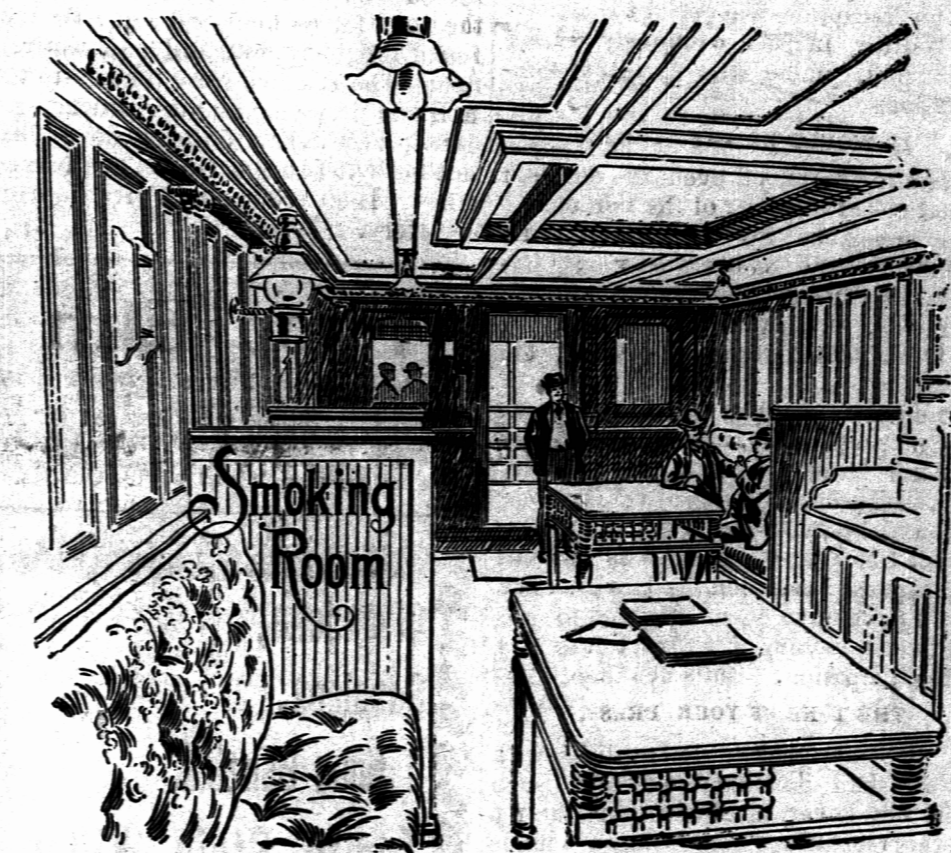
Continuing the Trip By Grand Duchesse.

HALIFAX' FINE HARBOR

Splendid View—Impressions of An American Visitor—The Cabman.

When I finished my last letter La Grande Duchesse was entering the magnificent harbor of Halifax and in about half an hour had moored at the Plant Line dock.

The fortifications on McNab and George's Islands as well as the various forts around the shore, were of great interest to my American friend, who continually assured me that they were nothing in comparison to the forts at the en-



ON BOARD "LA GRAND DUCHESSE."

trance of Boston Harbor, and he went on to relate the improvements made when it was feared that the Spanish fleet would bombard and destroy that city. On receiving the news of the fall of Santiago the people of the Hub were, however, reassured.

As we neared the dock, crowds of people were waiting to welcome the ship. Owing to the height of La Grande Duchesse the passengers were compelled to disembark on the roof of a warehouse and go down a flight of stairs to the quay. When about half way down the stair my friend missed a step and his descent was somewhat more rapid than he had intended. I will not pretend to say that he had given that step careful consideration.

Upon enquiry we learned that our ship was to sail at five o'clock and that we had seven hours to do the city.

school Convention in the great metropolis of London the past summer, and while there he preached in that city with great acceptance to the people. His farewell reception at Racine, Wis., as may well be inferred from what we have mentioned above, was attended by a very large number of people, probably not less than 800, and the supper was served to 500 at least. Leading clergymen of that city, from Milwaukee and elsewhere spoke of the fine qualities of this faithful pastor, both as a minister and a man; and of his ability as a preacher, and all expressed the deepest regret at the loss which that charge would sustain.

A contribution of sixty dollars in gold was presented to him by the officials of the church, and this was accompanied by a golden medal from the Boys' Brigade. Coming to us as he does with this honorable and worthy ministerial record, our Congregational neighbors are certainly to be congratulated upon their good fortune in securing his valuable services.

During the coming winter Mr. McLaren intends to write a book on the early life of our Island. It will be presented in story form.

"Well, where are you going?" said my friend. "The first place, for me, is a hotel," said I. "Suppose we go to the Queen?" "Ah," said he, "you're British. The Queen, I shall drop in with you," said he, heartily. "The Queen, well, when we are in Rome, ah."

As we walked up the pier we were met by Mr. H. L. Chipman, the agent for Canada for the Plant Line. He told us the traffic by the line had far exceeded the expectations of the company and he seemed perfectly satisfied.

We wended our way along and we were met by the usual regiment of cabmen, who told us the Queen was some distance away and it would be necessary to take a cab and "It will cost you only 50c." "Knowing that the hotel was only a very short distance from the wharf, we did not accept the proposition, and decided to walk.

After dinner we trudged away to a bookstore to get a tourist's guide. The first place we entered was entirely deserted, and looked as dusky and dingy as if it had been so for all time. After a moment's consultation we decided to try again, and the next time we were more successful.

The clearness of the air was most striking and a more beautiful day was not to be desired. After casting about we decided to visit the Citadel.

ASCENT OF THE CITADEL

We began the ascent of the Citadel, and having reached an elevation sufficient to command a view of Halifax, Dartmouth and the surrounding country the picture was a varied and charming one. The gradual descent and the spires of the numerous churches pointing heavenward almost at our feet, combined to produce an effect such as cannot easily be forgotten; and the blue

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"This is to tell you," writes Sister Eliza L. de Saloon, of Corpus Christi, Nueces Co., Texas, "that I had been ill for twenty-one years and was finally cured by your medicines, the 'Golden Medical Discovery' and the 'Favorite Prescription.'"

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Mr. James Scott, 136 Wright Ave., Toronto, states: "My boy Tom, aged ten, was for nearly three years afflicted with a bad form of Eczema of the scalp, which was very unsightly and resisted all kinds of remedies and doctor's treatment. His head was in a terrible state. We had to keep him from school, and at times his head would bleed, and the child would scream with agony. For two and a half years we battled with it in vain, but at last found a cure in Dr. Chase's Ointment. About five boxes were used. The original sores dried up, leaving the skin in its normal condition. To say it is a pleasure to testify to the wonderful merits of Dr. Chase's Ointment is putting it very mildly."

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