

telligence generally, in hearing reports from stations, and in appointing further supplies.

Dear Brethren, though we are absent from each other in the body, yet there are seasons when in spirit we can unite as children of one family, in the voice of supplication to our common Father; and when our united prayers thus ascend each week for a common object, may we often remember each other, and our hearts shall be encouraged and our hands strengthened in serving the Lord.

And now may the God of peace abide with you and make you perfect in every good word and work.

In the name of the Students' Missionary Association,

ALEX. SMITH, *President.*
GEO. MUNRO, *Secretary.*

The following letter was intended for the February number, but was too late:—

[FOR THE RECORD.]

PROGRESS OF THE CHURCH—CHATHAM, C. W.

It was suggested in a late number of your *Record*, that persons living in different parts of the province, should occasionally supply you with a letter, giving an account of the Church and its progress, in their respective localities.—Believing the suggestion to be a good one, I now send you a letter from Chatham, containing some statistics of the Presbyterian Church in that thriving town.

Chatham is situate, nearly at the head of the navigation, on the Thames, in the midst of a fertile country, intersected by the Great Western Railroad. The rich lands in the vicinity are attracting a large number of farmers, both from the Lower Province and the eastern part of the Upper Province. During the last five years, many Presbyterians, both from Scotland and Ireland, have settled in the adjoining townships, and with a commendable zeal, have not forgotten the God of their fathers; but, as far as practicable, they have endeavored to have the ordinances dispensed, and the worship of the sanctuary kept up. The result has been, that several congregations have been begun, which will soon be ripe for settled pastors. The townships east and west of Chatham, forming the peninsula between Lakes Erie and St. Clair, have, until recently, been but imperfectly known.

At an early period a few French families settled along the Thames and the shores of Lake St. Clair. Their descendants still remain there, but have done little to improve the country.—About the same time a number of English families settled on the south side of the peninsula, along the shores of Lake Erie; these have made considerable improvement. Between these two lakes a government road was laid out about twenty years ago, and settled on each side with a British population. The rest of the country is covered, in a great measure, with primitive forest, but these lands will soon be taken up. The fertility of the soil, the mildness of the climate, and the ease with which good lands can now be obtained, are attracting large numbers of settlers. The whole country will soon be filled with a teeming population. Now, it depends on the amount of the religious element which we infuse into these masses, in their first formation, whether the whole peninsula shall be leavened with gospel truth, or given up a prey to popery, scepticism, and infidelity. Whether we exert ourselves or not, the *Man of Sin* is there, and busy. Five chapels and a number of schools bear witness to the activity of his agents.

The town of Chatham is an important point in this vast field of missionary labour. The Great Western Railroad passes through it, extending through the peninsula, west as far as the Detroit River, opening up the resources of the townships,

and forming the great thoroughfare to the west. Chatham is the only town of note in this whole region, and, like other western towns, it has recently sprung up from its favorable location. It is now the centre of a growing and lucrative trade, which is carried on with Detroit and Montreal. About ten years ago, there were only a few straggling houses, now there is a compact village, containing about 3000 inhabitants, with an elegant Court House, a large and commodious Free School, an Academy, and several Churches. The Academy is under the charge of our respected friend, Mr. Jamieson. A new Presbyterian Church has been lately finished and opened; to it I would briefly advert. There was a Presbyterian Church at Chatham, in connection with the Establishment, before the Disruption. On the 24th of September, 1847, the first meeting was held by the Rev. Mr. Sutherland, with the view of organizing a Free Presbyterian Church. In December following, the Rev. Mr. McKinnon preached a few Sabbaths to the congregation thus formed; and in January, 1848, he moderated in a call for the Rev. Angus McColl, who was ordained as pastor in that charge, on the 22nd of February, 1848.—Only a few adhered to the Established Church of Scotland, and they gave the congregation thus formed, permission to occupy St. Andrew's Church, by paying the pew rents. In 1851, the Residaries called a minister, and ousted Mr. McColl and his congregation.

For a time they had no fixed place of worship, occupying by turns, the School-house, the Barracks, and the Temperance Hall. It must have retarded the progress of the congregation to be thus left without a house, at a time when they were weak and ill able to build another. Nothing disheartened, however, the trustees immediately took the necessary steps to erect a suitable place of worship. An appeal was made to the people, and in a few weeks, the subscriptions warranted them to contract for the building. A site was purchased last winter, fronting the Great Western Railroad, and a neat brick edifice erected on it during the summer, forty feet by fifty, with Gothic doors and windows. The estimated cost was about £600, most of which was raised by the congregation.

The house was finished in September last, and opened on the 14th November, by the Rev. Mr. Scott of London, who delivered, on the occasion, a very impressive sermon. The house was crowded during both diets of worship, and a good collection was taken up. The ladies of the congregation, besides providing lamps and chandeliers for the building, and trimming the pulpit, defrayed part of the expenses of the building, with a bazaar which they held on the 23rd and 24th of December. On the evening of the 24th a soiree was given by the ladies, and although the weather was very unfavourable, nearly all the ministers in Chatham attended, and a good sprinkling of their congregations were present.—Some of the speeches were excellent, and contained much humour. A great deal of good feeling and real christian intercourse was manifested during the evening.

Besides preaching in Chatham, Mr. McColl supplies two or three other stations in the neighbourhood. One on the middle road, in East Tilbury, about twenty miles west from Chatham, where he gives one Sabbath in the month, and one in the Caledonia settlement, where he gives an afternoon service twice in the month.

At the latter settlement a neat frame building has been erected. It was opened for worship last February, by the Rev. Mr. King, and Mr. McColl. The building has been erected by the congregation, and all the expenses borne by themselves.

It is pleasing to see the spirit manifested, both by the Chatham and Caledonia Churches to be self-supporting. I see no reason why either of the congregations could not build a house to God without feeling it—they only require to make an

united and persevering effort, and the thing will be accomplished.

There are several other stations which Mr. McColl supplies on the week days.

The physical labour of supplying these, when the roads are bad, is found to be too much for his constitution, he intends to give up some of them as soon as labourers can be found to take them off his hands. Tilbury is about to apply to the Home Mission Committee for a catechist next summer. It is an important station, and I hope they will be provided with a good one. An active catechist during one summer, would prepare the way for a permanent missionary. Until the Rev. Mr. King was appointed to the Buxton Mission, within ten miles of Chatham, the Rev. Mr. McColl stood alone in that out-post, with no brother to cheer and assist him. The nearest minister on the east, was at Moga, and that is forty miles distant, and the nearest on the west was Amherstburgh, and that is seventy miles. These two brethren now stand as sentinels on the out-posts of our Zion, cherishing the hope that they will soon be reinforced. Amherstburgh has called a minister, Wallaceburgh is ready to do the same, and the Tilburies will soon be ripe to call another; so that Chatham, which a few years ago was a very weak station, will soon, with the blessing of God, become the centre of a flourishing Presbytery.

January, 1853.

A PRESBYTERIAN.

[FOR THE RECORD.]

KEENE—OTANABEE.

SALE OF LADIES' WORK, AND MISSIONARY MEETING.

According to previous arrangement, we had our first sale of ladies' work, and missionary meeting at Keene, on the 25th ultimo. The day was very forbidding in its aspect, storming throughout the greater part. In the morning we had little hope of success, yet we were very agreeably disappointed in the success of the day. Toward evening, young and old of the village, and surrounding neighbourhood, collected together and encouraged the ladies of the Association by competing for the various articles they had to dispose of. It must have been very gratifying to the ladies of the Association, in their first effort, to be so encouraged. The various articles of dress were marked cheaply, and this, in connection with the design of the sale, viz. for religious purposes, made them to be easily disposed off. We understand that the proceeds amounted to something near \$90. It is true, indeed, that this may be small as compared with the amount realized at many other sales, yet, when it is considered as a first attempt and in a country place, it will appear more respectable. Connected with the day's sale, there was an excellent dinner in the "Victoria House," under the superintendence of Mrs. J. Short, who has evinced a lively interest in the Association. It is not a long time since this Association was formed, and little time has been lost, yet the result has been good. The ladies, who could conveniently, met once a week in the Victoria House, in an apartment of which Mr. Humphries kindly granted them accommodation. They had not merely the pleasure of being engaged in a good work, but, those of the same congregation met together, had the privilege of knowing and being known, and of cultivating kindly social intercourse. They were taught, too, the important lesson, in those meetings, that christianity is not merely something that demands contemplation, but that it is something which demands action. The less that is done for the cause of Christ, the less will be the hold which that religion will take of the mind, but the outward act will have a powerful influence in imprinting it upon the mind. We cannot but rejoice, when we see the youth of a congregation employing themselves in any work calculated to put honour upon him who has come to