

1853. At least 500 people were converted at these meetings. We have met them everywhere, all over the Province.

The Middleville and Rosetta Church has had several pastors since; the present hard-working "bishop" being Rev. E. C. W. MacColl. In 1854, Rev. Henry Lancashire was ordained the first pastor in the village of Lanark. He was followed by Rev. Philip Shanks. Rev. Richard Lewis served the church four years; and then Rev. John Brown nine years. In 1876, during Mr. Brown's pastorate, a great Revival took place; one result of which was an accession of seventy converts to the church. Rev. B. W. Day was then pastor for over eight years; retiring last year on account of feeble health. After preaching in the church for a summer as a student, a call to the pastorate was extended to Mr. Bessey, which he accepted. Mr. Bessey is a young man, (this being his first charge). Before entering upon his studies for the ministry he had quite an extensive experience in the work of the Y.M.C.A., and already his ability to draw out the young men in the Master's service is being felt in the church, so that in the future history of the church we may hope for much.

The steady progress which the church has made ever since its organization proves that its pastors have all been "workmen that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Rev. William N. Bessey, from the Congregational College, was ordained pastor on the 18th December (1889), Rev. John Wood of Ottawa, asked the usual questions of the candidate, as to his conversion, call to the ministry, and doctrinal views. These having been satisfactorily answered, then followed the "laying on of hands," Rev. Dr. Barbour offering the ordination prayer. Rev. Mr. MacColl then extended the right hand of fellowship to the young minister, and in a few well-chosen words welcomed him to the work of the Christian ministry and a share in its joys and difficulties in the name of the church and ministerial brotherhood. Rev. Dr. Barbour delivered the charge to the minister. The address to the congregation was given by the Rev. John Wood, of Ottawa, who founded his remarks on the 8th verse of the Second Epistle of John, "Look to yourselves that we lose not those things that we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward."

TORONTO, WESTERN.—The following is an extract from the detailed statement of the undersigned on behalf of the church and in reference to "the finding" of an *Ex-parte* Council as reported in last month's CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

"As to the separation that was thus rendered inevitable, we desire it to be distinctly understood that at the meeting at which final action was taken it was clearly and plainly stated that should any of those who had placed themselves in the position referred to change their mind

and indicate their purpose to work for the present peace and prosperity of the church, they would be cordially welcome to a place in the ranks. Who can suppose for one moment that a Church situated as we were, would elect to lose members, if their remaining with us meant strength and concord?

"Why then, it may be asked, were letters of membership granted to all these? It was, in a number of instances, more in mercy than in strict justice; in view of the circumstance stated above, we have no intention to make it difficult for them to come under direct church influences under new conditions elsewhere.

(2). "And now a word as to the *ex-parte* council. The ground of our refusal to go over ground so often gone over previously, was simply our belief that it would be time and labor lost. We have already lost too much time over the affair.

"The assumption of the *ex-parte* council in presuming to pass judgment on our actions when the evidence on one side only was before it was a matter of astonishment to us. Seeing that one side only consented to submit its case for advice, we consider that 'the more excellent way' would be to decline to give judgment, where a just judgment was in the circumstances, absolutely impossible, 'all the facts' not being in possession of an *ex-parte* council. Some day, however, it will be understood, that it is a good Congregationalism, to say the least, not to meddle, unasked and unauthorized in other people's business. We commend to the attention of the public the position taken by Zion Congregational Church (College-avenue) on the whole question as stated in their letter to the council *ex-parte*, and in the letter of its manly Pastor appended hereto:

'23 ST. MARY-ST., TORONTO, Dec. 9, '89.

'The Rev. George Robertson:

'MY DEAR SIR,—I have been asked by my Board of Deacons to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of Saturday last, and to say, that in accordance with the principle we laid down in our reply to Mr. Flint, we should be quite prepared to send delegates to the council when it ceases to be an *ex-parte* council. We have written to the Western Church to ask if they are purposing to take part. Upon their answer will depend the presence or absence of our delegates at the adjourned meeting on Friday next. We are not at all disposed to recede from the position we have taken up, viz., that a one-sided hearing can do nothing to adjust matters, and must be grossly unfair to all concerned.

'Believe me, faithfully yours,

(Sgd.)

'GEORGE H. SANDWELL'

"As a Church we ask only that we be allowed to manage our own affairs and do our work as the Lord reveals His will to us. We are glad to accord other churches the same privileges. But 'all things do work together for good.' Storms clear the air, and a winnowing discipline is wholesome. As an army marches forward the loyal and true are discovered.

"As a Church we are enjoying the blessings of oneness of aim, mutual respect and esteem, and as officers the consciousness of having striven to do the right. Under these circumstances, and under these only, could we hope for the divine blessing, and from the partial and unjust judgments of men we look forward to the righteous judgment of Him whose insight into human hearts is perfect, and whose sentence on human motives is complete and final

"On behalf of the board,

E. H. ARMS,
W. D. RIDDELL,
F. W. DONALDSON,
J. W. HEWETSON, Sec.

} Deacons.

"Toronto, Dec. 27, 1889."