

there have been organized within the church two societies—the one of Y. P. M. and L. Society, and the other the Temperance Association. The large attendance at the Lord's Supper indicates high spiritual condition. The Treasurer's report shows total amount received during the year from all sources, \$4,066.70; expenditure, \$4,004.04; balance cash on hand, \$62.66. The Sabbath school is in a healthy condition. It has a temperance society of over 75 members, and an excellent literary and musical association with 50 members. The number on roll is 301; officers and teachers 32. The average attendance is, scholars 217; officers and teachers 29. Funds received \$252.13; disbursements \$146.97; volumes in library 638. The Ladies' Auxiliary Society gave evidence that the ladies had been faithful to their duties. Collections during the year, \$432.19. We congratulate church and pastor on their continued prosperity.

**LISTOWEL.**—The Rev. Dr. Gunner having retired from the pastorate here in July last, the friends have been anxiously looking around for a successor, which they have now found in the person of the Rev. W. Burgess, known to the Canadian Temperance world by reason of his connection with *The Canada Citizen* and his advocacy of the Temperance question. Resolving upon giving up editorial work and consecrating himself to the work of the Christian ministry he was brought before the notice of the church, and after supplying for some months has been cordially invited to accept the pastorate, which he has done; and the churches of London, Listowel, Stratford, Wingham, Guelph and Bond Street, Toronto, were invited to send delegates to meet in council at Listowel, on Tuesday, January 26th, 1886, for the purpose of ascertaining the character and fitness of Rev. W. Burgess for the work in which he desired to be engaged, and if satisfactory to proceed to his ordination. Assembled at 3 o'clock, the Rev. D. McGregor, of Guelph, was appointed moderator, and the Rev. C. E. Gordon-Smith of Stratford, scribe. The roll of the invited being called over the following constituted the members present: Listowel: Rev. W. Burgess, Mr. John Climie, Mr. Charles Barker; Stratford: Rev. C. E. Gordon-Smith, Deacon Charles Snazel; Guelph: Rev. D. McGregor; Wingham: Rev. R. K. Black; Bond Street, Toronto: Rev. Dr. Wild, Mr. E. Potts. Messrs. McMillan, senr. and junr., of Listowel, and Rev. F. W. Clarke of Speedside, were invited to sit as honorary members. Deacon D. D. Hay, of Stratford, having to retire on account of sickness, Mr. J. Climie stated the circumstances leading to the call of the pastor, which Mr. Burgess confirmed. In place of written credentials, Rev. Dr. Wild gave testimony to close personal knowledge of Mr. Burgess as a member of his church during the last five years, which Mr. E. Potts corroborated. Mr. Burgess then gave an account of himself prior to coming to this country, giving a clear statement of his conversion, devotion to Christ's service and doctrinal views; and after a free and friendly discussion, Dr. Wild moved, Rev. R. Black seconded, and unanimously resolved: "That this council being satisfied with the statements of Rev. W. Burgess, proceed with his ordination to the Christian Ministry and pastorate of this church, and arrange the programme of that service to be held this evening." At seven o'clock the public service commenced, Rev. D. McGregor presiding, Mr. E. Potts offering the opening

prayer. The moderator asked the usual questions, which were replied to by Messrs. J. Climie and W. Burgess, the Rev. C. E. Gordon-Smith giving the right hand of welcome. Rev. R. Black offered the ordination prayer, after which the Rev. W. F. Clarke addressed the pastor, and Dr. Wild preached to the people a characteristic sermon from the text Gen. 1, 27, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him, male and female created he them." We could not see any relation between the subject and the occasion, but the Dr. evidently thought there was some suitability in the subject to the locality, and in his own peculiar style discoursed very acceptably to the large audience on evolution v.s. devolution. Letters of apology for absence were received from Rev. D. H. Hunter of London, and Dr. Gunner, Listowel. We wish for pastor and people a truly prosperous future.

**MELBOURNE.**—The S. S. Anniversary meetings were of more than usual interest this year. On December the 29th, an overflowing congregation met in the church. All were more than pleased with the entertainment given by the pupils of the S. S. The Revd. Geo. Skinner, of Eaton, and Students T. Pritchard and Swanson of the C. C. B. N. A. gave short and felicitous addresses. The general report of the school for the year, speaks of new life and interest and steady growth. Additional teachers and classes have been added. A monthly collection is now devoted to missions. The Xmas tree kindly remembered all. The pastor was the recipient of a valuable cutter robe, likewise a sum of money from a sympathetic congregation. The Christian worker here has reason to thank God and take courage. There are signs of the unity of christian brotherhood manifesting themselves at Richmond and Melbourne. The Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational churches have united in holding special evangelistic services. Anxious enquirers have found peace by believing in Jesus.

**OTTAWA.**—This church is earning for itself a praiseworthy record. The Sunday school festival was held during the Christmas week, and brought its happy greetings to pastor, scholars, teachers and friends. On Xmas and New Years' mornings very pleasant services were held. There was a good attendance, especially at the latter, when a "praise meeting" was held, recalling to memory the mercies of the past, and the promises of God's Word regarding the future. The Ladies' busy fingers have done good service, and the Literary Society has not hidden its light. The annual meeting was held 13th ult., from which we gather that since the last annual meeting the church has completed the first quarter-century of its existence, its organization having taken place on the 10th March, 1860. No special commemoration service was held to mark the event, yet devout thankfulness to the great Head of the church is felt. It may be interesting to know that the little church which began with twenty-two members has, since that time, received 230 additions—of whom 136 first professed their faith in Christ, in connection with this Church—while, during the same period, it has lost by removals and death, 160 members. Our work has gone forward during the past year with varying success and discouragement. The additions to fellowship—five by profession of faith and three by letter—have been more than counter-balanced by thirtieen