

which, the last especially, sound more like the titles of *Ledger* stories or dime novels, than of religious discourses. They have had the effect, however, of filling his church on Sunday-evenings to such an extent that it is often impossible to obtain even standing room; and he claims that much good ensued from their delivery, as testified by parties calling upon or sending letters to him. The series was concluded about two weeks since, and supplemented by a sermon last Sabbath evening to professional and commercial students. Mr. Stephenson is perhaps the foremost pulpit speaker of Toronto, and can deliver an earnest, feeling address. He speaks with a fluency which becomes even rapidity at times, and has a great command of language. His speaking, in the opinion of many, is marred by a redundancy of words, and using them occasionally out of their meaning. He is a middle-aged, portly man, with curly, light brown hair, and an open, benevolent and jovial-looking countenance, and looks as if he enjoyed life thoroughly. While many are disposed to decry sensation preaching, and attribute his conduct to a mere love of notoriety, after all, is it not something gained to get a hearing from those who previously seldom or never attended a place of worship even though the ministerial dignity should be a little lowered by the introduction of "sensationalism" into the pulpit?—a question, doubtless, more easily asked than answered, for there is much to be said on both sides.—*Cor. Montreal Witness.*

Rev. Dr. Burns, Emeritus Professor in Knox College, Toronto, on the eve of a visit to Britain, received from a number of friends in the city, a purse of \$600, as a testimony of their personal esteem, their appreciation of his public services, and their sympathy in his recent bereavement by the death of his youngest son, W. H. Burns, Esq. The venerable Doctor is still travelling and labouring, as of yore, with scarcely abated energy.

Free Visitors' Pews.—Our Wesleyan friends have introduced a valuable improvement on the family pew system, in their new church. A few friends have made up a purse, and rented a couple of pews, to be free for strangers and visitors. For convenience, a neat placard in a gilt frame hangs at the church entrance, which states their number and location, and invites strangers and visitors to these seats. It is well known that thousands, especially in great cities, sensitively avoid churches for fear of disturbing the holders of pews. Even in our towns and villages, travellers and visitors would more freely enter strange churches if more inviting provision were made for them. In the Wesleyan church, the great financial success of providing for the whole debt of such a spacious and beautiful edifice was largely owing to the generous aid of friends in the country for miles around. And it is a pleasant return, in addition to the usual church hospitalities, to provide extra free pews to tempt these often to visit the church they have helped to erect.—*Brampton Times.*

[Is not the above a very sensible solution of one of the difficulties of the pew-rent system, accommodating the occasional without incommoding the constant attendants?—Ed. C. I.]

Obituary.

Mrs. JOHN THOMAS.

(EXTRACT OF A SERMON IN ZION CHURCH, TORONTO, BY THE PASTOR, MARCH 22, 1868.)

Not long since it pleased God to take away one of our youngest Church members; quite lately, he has called to himself one of our oldest,—the very oldest person literally on our roll,—one of the first members of this church, and by far the oldest church-member among us, since her membership in the church below extended through the long period of seventy years. Mrs. Sarah Thomas was born in Frome, Somersetshire, England, on the 5th of March, 1782. At the age