

Official Notices.

THE WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONAL MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

The above Association will meet in the Congregational church, Listowel, Ont., on Tuesday, March 13th, at 3.30 p.m. The associational sermon will be preached on Tuesday evening, by the Rev. W. Wetherald of St. Catharines. On Wednesday, the following papers will be read and discussed, viz.: "Is the Power of the Pulpit Declining," by Rev. H. D. Hunter; "The New Theology," by Rev. C. S. Pedley; "The Relation of Temperance to Sabbath Schools," by Rev. H. Hughes; at 4 p.m. the Sunday School "Question Drawer will be opened "Questions" discussed for one hour. The following subjects will be discussed as far as practicable, viz.: "Our Missionary Work;" "Our College;" "Our Denominational Opportunities;" "Our CANADIAN INDEPENDENT." On Wednesday evening a "Platform Meeting" will be held, and brief addresses delivered by several speakers, on the subject bearing upon "Spiritual Life and Work."

Ministers and delegates are requested to forward their names without delay to Robert H. Climie, Esq., Listowel, Ont.

Churches are hereby reminded that in accordance with the "Rules" of the Association, they are respectfully requested to defray the travelling expenses of their ministers and delegates."

D. McGILLON, *Secretary.*

Guelph, Feb. 19th, 1883.

Correspondence.

MR. HALL'S LETTER.

MR. EDITOR,—It will be difficult to comprise in one letter of the usual length a satisfactory account of the churches I have visited during the month of January. I will be as brief as possible; but, if I trespass a little on your valuable space, you must indulge me for once.

After meeting the Executive in Toronto, submitting my first quarterly report, and receiving instructions for the future, I spent the first Sunday of the New Year in the quiet town of

WHITBY,

some thirty miles east of Toronto, on the Grand Trunk railroad. The Congregational church here was organized in 1843. There is a good comfortable frame building, also a parsonage in respectable repair, and a valuable lot, facing two principal streets. Property valued at \$3,500 and only \$900 debt on the whole. The church has been vacant for over twelve months,

hence some of the old friends have gone into other churches. Some have moved away from the town, leaving our congregation small.

I preached twice; had a conference with the church members and others. Made a collection for the Missionary Society, and organized a Ladies Auxiliary. I found the friends strongly attached to their Church, and still hopeful. The most they can do for the present is to meet current expenses. If anything is to be done to re-open the church, the Missionary Society must come to the rescue. The rising town of Oshawa, only a few miles distant, might be worked in connection with Whitby, and we have members there who would be very glad of such an arrangement; or, brethren from Toronto, ministerial and others, might supply fortnightly, and even this would be very acceptable. Who will go?

UNIONVILLE

was the next place visited. Here I found one of the most beautiful church edifices I have seen in either city or country, but a very small congregation. As I was there only on a week evening, I did not see all the people. Those I met seem anxious to keep together, and I learn they have a prayer meeting, and a service conducted by one of the members on Sunday evenings besides the largest Sunday school in the village.

It would be a great pity to neglect this place. It might be worked from Stouffville by a strong man, if the Stouffville friends would be satisfied with such an arrangement.

I spent a few hours in the go-ahead village of Markham, where we had a church until recently. I called on a few families, who are still strong Congregationalists, from those I learned that our people have moved away en masse, and so few remained that it was no use trying to keep up the cause. I had the pleasure of spending a few hours with members of my former congregation, in St. John's, Newfoundland, the Chuacey Brothers, Proprietors and Editors of the *Markham Sun*. It is immaterial to me what side of politics the *Markham Sun* shines on, my friends, whom I have known and loved for fifteen years, and whose relations are among my warmest friends in *Terra Nova*, are staunch Congregationalists, and cannot well be anything else. They are succeeding in their undertaking, and they deserve to.

STOUFFVILLE

is some nine miles from Unionville, on the Midland railway, about thirty from Toronto. Very handsome church edifice and comfortable parsonage. The congregation has suffered greatly from short pastorates, removals, and long vacancies. The friends seem to be discouraged at present, and if a suitable pastor is not secured very shortly, there will not be much to give hope for the future. The missionary meeting was very small.