

HAMILTON, 30th Jan., 1851.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have no doubt that the readers of the *Record* will be gratified to hear of the opening of the New Church at Woodstock, at which I had the pleasure of being present last Sabbath (Jan 26th)

The Church is a handsome edifice, built on a site rather above the general level of the town, and is the most conspicuous object in the place. There is a large basement story, well lighted, and capable of accommodating comfortably more than 300 persons. The area of the Church contains 405 sittings. There is at present no gallery, but matters are so arranged that one can easily be added, in front of the pulpit, to hold 100 persons. The building is ornamented with a tower, not yet completed, but furnished already with the desirable appendage of a well-toned bell, which was purchased at a cost of £59. The expense of the Church, which has been considerable, has been defrayed almost entirely by the members of the Congregation themselves: the assistance received from other quarters being very trifling. Some doubt remains, but not much, and no doubt is felt but that it will be cleared off easily, and in a short time.

I had been invited by my friend, the Rev. W. S. Ball, Pastor of the Congregation, to preach at the opening of the Church. I accordingly officiated last Sabbath morning to a large and attentive assembly—the Church indeed was filled. I preached again in the evening, and I trust that the Lord was with us, and that He will continue in all time coming to accompany with the blessing of His Spirit the proclamation of the Gospel, within the walls thus consecrated to His service.

On Monday evening there was a Soiree, to which I remained. Tea and other refreshments were served in the basement story, and when (as Homer says),

"The rage of thirst and hunger was appeased," the company ascended to the Church, and composed themselves to enjoy the intellectual provision that succeeded. The Warden of the County was called to the Chair, and speeches were delivered on a variety of topics by ministers or members of the Wesleyan, Baptist and Episcopal communions, as well as by parties connected with our own Church. I myself, at Mr. Ball's request, delivered an address on the principles involved in the contentings of the Free Church of Scotland—a subject on which, since I came to this country, I have found the most extraordinary ignorance prevailing. The proceedings were happily wound up by the Pastor of the Congregation. A Choral Society in the town had kindly consented to be present, and their performance of pieces of sacred music between the speeches, produced an agreeable variety, and prevented the feeling of tediousness. I believe that between 400 and 500 tickets were sold, and the Church was completely filled.

The Congregation at Woodstock affords most delightful indications of progress. Some two years ago, they worshipped in a small Church belonging to another denomination, and their attendance was hardly above 150 persons. Now, almost all the 405 sittings in their new place of worship are let. When they first began to talk of building, the general feeling was that the new Church should be made very small; it was with a good deal of difficulty, I understand, that the more sanguine and hopeful members of the Congregation succeeded in getting it made of its present size; and now the universal opinion is, that the Church has not been made large enough. One of the members of the Congregation, at the Soiree, very candidly, and in a spirit of thankfulness to God, referred to the part which he had himself at one time taken in opposing the erection of so large and handsome a place of worship; and stated that, in the divine goodness, objects which appeared beyond their reach had been attained, and a measure of success exceeding their largest anticipations, had been realized. May He

who has enabled them to set up their Ebenezer so joyfully at this point, continue to be with them still.

On the Wednesday following the opening of the Woodstock Church, I had the satisfaction of presiding at the ordination of Mr. Wilson, at Suncoo; but as I expect that you will receive an account of what took place on that occasion from another quarter, I will not enter into particulars.

I am, my dear sir,

Yours very truly,

GEORGE PAXTON YOUNG.

J. BURNS, Esq.

### ANNIVERSARY SEASON IN KINGSTON

To the Editor of the *Record*.

DEAR SIR,—

Hitherto our Religious Societies have had their annual meetings at different seasons of the year—recently we resolved on devoting an *entire week* to this purpose. It occurred to us, that thereby the interest in their objects and operations would be deepened and extended, and that we would be more readily cheered and aided by the presence and pleading of friends from a distance. We were also influenced in the adoption of this plan by the success with which it has been attended in London, New York, and Montreal. Last week was the one selected; and now that it is over, we can honestly say, that our expectations have been more than realised. The thing was new amongst us, but it took well. Every evening our noble City Hall was crowded with eager and enthusiastic audiences. Each successive meeting witnessed an increase of interest, and a fresh infusion of life. The platform was occupied by the representatives of all the principal protestant denominations, who felt that, without the slightest compromise of their distinctive principles, they could co-operate in the advocacy of objects reflecting the image and affecting the interests of our common Christianity. It being the week of our ordinary meeting of Presbytery, several of our brethren were present, and took part in the proceedings. Nor was it the least pleasing feature that we were favored with the assistance of four friends belonging to the profession and imbued with the spirit of the good Cornelius, who thought it not beneath them, to own themselves soldiers of the Captain of salvation. The unanimity evinced was delightful. Indeed were it for nothing more than the opportunity thereby furnished of shewing that protestant Christians keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace, (a fine set off against the unity of the Papacy,) we would have much reason to bless God for such meetings. As the "Bible, and the Bible alone," form the foundation on which all our societies rest, the foremost place in the list was appropriately assigned to it.

The Anniversary of our Auxiliary to the "British and Foreign," came off on Monday, the 13th. Captain Stace, R. A., occupied the chair, and prefaced the proceedings by a few seasonable observations. The report was read by the Rev. R. F. Burns.

This Society has existed in our city for upwards of twenty years, but had become literally, twice dead, and was well nigh plucked up by the roots. In May, 1849, it was revived afresh, and the symptoms of vitality it has exhibited since then, augur favorably for its permanence.

The sales of the past year have exceeded those during the preceding, in the proportion of more than a *third*. Depots have been planted at four of the surrounding villages, and as the Directors of the Upper Canada Society have generously intimated their willingness to give up to us the field, stretching as far west as Belleville, we have the prospect presently of lengthening our cords. We thought it not good that we should be alone in the work, and have obtained a number of devoted women to labor with us. The Female Association has proved a most efficient handmaid.

Their interesting report (which was read at the public meeting,) shews the need for such an agency, and their peculiar adaptation. The city has been divided into districts, and through the medium of a well equipped staff of collectors, the priceless pearl has found access to many, into whose hands it might never otherwise have come. The Society has lost, during the year, two of its warmest supporters. One of them, Dr. Mair, Staff-Surgeon, was a member of our church—His large heart, single eye, and unobtrusive devotedness, won him the affection and esteem of all with whom he came in contact. And in so far as I am personally concerned, his removal has caused a blank in the circle of friendship, which the Friend that sucketh closer than a brother alone can supply.

A fraternal letter has been despatched to your Society in Toronto, and also to the one in Montreal, expressive of Christian regard, and soliciting an interchange of Christian offices. We trust, ere another anniversary season comes round, to be privileged with a delegate from both, and I think I may take it upon me to say for ourselves, that we shall not be slow to respond. If a reciprocity measure of this nature were carried into effect, the interest of our meetings would be greatly increased—we would realise more fully and forcibly that we are yokefellows in a common work—while those evils which, in a widely extended land like ours, isolation almost necessarily produces, would be materially diminished.

The "City Mission" engaged our attention on the evening of Tuesday, the 14th. Lieut. Col. Lawrence, R. B., presided, and furnished some interesting details, respecting the London City Mission, with whose operations he was personally acquainted. The Rev. Alex. Lorimer, of the Baptist Church, read the report. This important Institution was established amongst us in December, 1849—already it has been instrumental in accomplishing much good, particularly amongst those living beyond the pale of gospel ordinances. While light has been made to stream into the abodes of darkness and of death, we have reason to hope that, at least one or two Lazaruses have come forth, and are now sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in their right mind. The missionary devotes six hours each day to the work of visitation. He has paid upwards of 3000 visits, and distributed a large quantity of tracts. He keeps a narrative of his visits in his journal, extracts from which are regularly read at the monthly meetings of our Committee. Weekly prayer meetings have been established in destitute parts of the city. These have been attended by an average number of upwards of 200, and are superintended by Christian friends appointed by the committee, who are empowered to co-operate with our agent. Several have been induced to abandon habits of intemperance. Not a few have been prevailed on to keep their foot from the Sabbath, and to frequent the House of God. The visits paid have, with a few exceptions, been well received, and the influence exerted has been decidedly beneficial. We are beginning to feel more and more, that it is only by conforming to the primitive model of ceasing not "daily, and from house to house, to teach and preach Jesus Christ," that we can compel moral outcasts to come in.

The Anniversary of our Tract Society was held on Wednesday, the 15th. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, the Hall was filled, and the interest of the meetings seemed to increase. Captain Haultain, R. A., another of our esteemed military friends, presided, and gave us a fine manly speech. By the way, although ours was pre-eminently a "Peace Congress," the frontispiece assumed rather a war-like aspect. Each meeting had a soldier at its head. The report was submitted by our efficient Home Secretary, the Rev. R. V. Rogers, (Epis. Church.) Nothing remarkable has transpired in the history of this Society during the year—but the wheels