

News of the Churches.

Guelph—Annual Soiree.—New Church.—From the following report our readers will see that the friends in Guelph are moving in the matter of church-building. They much need a new house, as their present one is behind the times, while the congregation is steadily growing. From such a minister and people, we expect a "model" structure. We understand that it is designed to build on the front of the present site, the old church being converted into a school-room. We heartily wish success to the enterprise.

A large and highly respectable number of people attended the Soiree in connection with the Congregational Church in this town, which was held in the Town Hall, on Friday evening, October 26.

Rev. W. F. Clarke, chairman, said that an erroneous idea had got abroad concerning the object of the soiree, the public being under the impression that it was a means to which they had resorted for the purpose of raising funds to assist in the erection of a new house of worship, whereas it was simply their annual soiree; still, they would be well satisfied to apply any surplus funds that might remain to them to the purpose before alluded to.

The first speaker, Rev. Mr. Hogg, chose for his topic, "Church Edifices." He began by explaining that the term "Church," in the New Testament, meant not the house of worship, but the body of worshippers, but was at length used to denote both the house and the assembly. The speaker went on to show how churches multiplied after Constantine had established Christianity as the religion of the Roman Empire, and how different was their configuration then from what it is now, being in shape octagonal, pentagonal, and cruciform. When the Gothic style of architecture was first introduced into Italy, the Italians regarded it as perfectly barbaric, and for his part he did not consider such buildings suitable, as they generally have an echo, or some such disadvantage. They may do very well for those who take delight in a gorgeous ritual, but for Protestants, their extravagant decorations, and their stained glass discolouring the clear light of Heaven, which is emblematic of the God whom Christians worship, make them entirely unsuited. He had no great love for the man who grudged expense in making a church spacious and comfortable. Such a building should be of faultless architecture. It would have a good effect more especially on the young, since beautiful architecture speaks through the feelings to the heart. He concluded with the wish that the projected structure might soon be proceeded with.

Rev. Mr. Duff, Eramosa, was the second speaker. Two thoughts had occurred to him; one was Consecration. The Christian Church, he believed to be modelled more like the Jewish synagogue than like the ancient temples. Everybody and everything about these old institutions was consecrated; priests, altars, even the very materials of the building were all inscribed "holiness to the Lord." He went on to show that it is a man's duty to consecrate to God everything he possesses, abilities, property, social influence, heart, affections; and gave an instance to prove the assertion which he made, that investments in Christ's cause were the most profitable that could be made.

The Rev. Mr. Torrance was next called upon. He was glad that it had leaked out the Congregationalists were to have a new church, and hoped that they would meet before long to lay the foundation stone, and shortly after that to see the cap-stone laid on the structure. The chairman, in his note of invitation had mentioned this as being the annual tea-meeting, and that word *annual* called up a train of thought. It meant that another year had passed, and carried us so much nearer to the brink of the grave. An eventful year it had been, eventful in the history of Europe, as well as in that of Canada. The speaker here referred to the changes which had come over some of the countries of central Europe. Again, great events had transpired in our own land. A horde of marauders had desecrated our soil, but they had been met in a manner calculated to impress upon the minds of those who were opposed to us that we are determined to preserve our hearths and homes, and *must* be left unmolested to develop