

that this worthy ministerial brother had returned home from Manitoba on account of broken down health. He seemed to be about to enter on a very useful career as our 3rd. missionary to the Prairie Province, but God's plans are not always man's plans, and our good brother has come back to wait the Master's call to "come up higher."

"BY THEIR FRUITS," &c.—The so-called Free Thinkers of America recently held a Convention at Watkin's Glen, N. Y., and adopted a great number of resolutions, among them one objecting to the use of the Bible in the army or the public schools of the United States, another against chaplaincies, and another wailing bitterly because of the arrest of certain persons for violation of the laws against obscenity. "By their fruits ye shall know them."

POSTAGE TO INDIA.—The admission of Canada into the General Postal Union has effected considerable change in our rates of postage to certain parts of the world. For the benefit of those who may correspond with our Missionaries in Canada, we extract the following information from the latest edition (just published) of the *Official Postal Guide of the Dominion*: Letters are now charged only 10 cts. per ½ oz. instead of 16 cts. as formerly, and will go *via Brindisi*. *Postal Cards* may be also sent for 4 cts. prepaid. *Newspapers* 4 cts. each if under 4 oz. in weight. The *Postal Cards* must be those bearing the 2 ct. embossed stamp, and an ordinary 2 cent stamp must be affixed also. The one cent *Cards* will not be forwarded, being only intended for Canada and the United States. Letters for India and other tropical countries should not be sealed with wax, which is liable to melt and damage other contents of the mail bag.

ORILLIA.—We are very pleased to know, from personal observation during an exceedingly pleasant visit to the above beautiful town, that the Baptist cause is progressing very encouragingly under the patient, plodding pastorate of our good brother Sherman. The Lord is pleased to bless the efforts being put forth by both pastor and people to the salvation of souls, and the baptistry has been in frequent use during the last few months.

We were particularly pleased with the interest manifested by the teachers and scholars of the Sunday School, and the evidences of good being done there were marked. A large Bible Class of young people, taught by Bro. Maynard, was pre-empted by a spirit of deep solemnity, and we were not surprised to see most of its members earnest worshippers at the social prayer meeting on the following Wednesday evening. Bro. Sherman seems to be supported by a small but earnest band of devout Christian workers, and they deserve, and we believe they have, the hearty sympathy, earnest prayers and cordial support of the Denomination.

PIONEER MISSIONARY WORK.—The *Domestic Churchman*—which, by the way, is one of our most valued weekly exchanges—has lately contained a series of interesting letters from a clergyman who has travelled over the Muskoka and Algoma Districts. His object has been to find out what localities are most suitable for settlement, and likely to become rising centres of population and influence. As a wise and zealous 'churchman' he recommends the immediate occupation by his church of those localities, which, although now only sparsely populated, seem destined to grow. By sending missionaries and planting missions in these places while in their infancy, before the fields are pre-occupied by other communions, the writer contends the church will gain a foot-hold that it will be impossible to obtain after years of delay. We commend this policy to the serious attention of our own Baptist brethren as one worthy of consideration and prompt adoption. The Baptist position in Manitoba and the Northwest fifty years hence will depend very much on what the Baptists of to-day do in the matter.

## Contributed Articles.

### MUTUAL SABBATH SCHOOL HELPERS.

An examination of the desks and shelves of the libraries of our older and richer schools would doubtless disclose an astonishing number of cast-off furnishings. Hymn-books which, though in themselves good, have been laid aside—having been sung "threadbare"—to make room for more modern ones;

library books which have been "thumbed" by every scholar in the school, till they retire with honors to the obscurity of the back shelves; other books which have been damaged in their many rounds, and lie awaiting repairs, which are never made, because the school is so well off that the necessary repairs would not "pay"; call-bells having old-fashioned handles, and whose tinkling voices,—melodious and full of pleasant memories though they were,—have been drowned by the more august tones of handsome modern ones—all these and many other Sabbath-school necessities are now lying worse than idle,—they are an eyesore and a positive annoyance to the methodical librarian.

Full many a book that's very useful been,  
The dark and dusty shelves and cupboards bear;  
Full many a call-bell mourns what it has been,  
And longs to tinkle on the Sabbath air.

Would not mission schools be glad to receive these cast-off garments? No doubt of it. The books that have been most vigorously "thumbed" are the books which the "rich" boys have devoured more eagerly than all the other books in the well-furnished library. These books have a history, and their worn and soiled appearance would make the eyes of the "poor" boys dance with delight,—for all boys know that the most thumbed books are the spiciest,—and such books would have a large "run" in the mission school. Taking a broader view of this subject, however, why should there not be some medium for the collection of the articles named, and their judicious distribution, either free or at nominal cost, among the poorer schools? And why should not even the richer schools benefit each other by mutual exchange of books now in disuse? Here is a grand work for the "Baptist Librarians' Association" that is to be!

### "THE WORK OF CHURCH CLERKS."

BY ONE OF THEM.

On reviewing the paper on this subject in the *HELPER* of December, 1877, and in discussing the points there touched upon, several queries and problems press for solution. It is to be regretted that the former paper did not excite discussion, for the subject affects not alone the comfort of clerks, but in a large measure the peace and prosperity and good name of the churches. Questions of church courtesy, if not of discipline as between churches, are involved; and it is a lamentable fact that great ignorance prevails as to the respect one church should pay to another. This question, of course, is one that should not come under the control of the church clerks as such; but as they are more intimately concerned, and as church members and officers leave such matters in their hands, they should have a proper understanding, among themselves at least, of