

are trifles in comparison to the following: "During the short period of this gentleman's pastorate, the usual results of a substitution of *youthful ardour* FOR *STEREOTYPED INFIRMITY* have been realized."

We desire to correct this by the statement of figures taken from our annual statistics. The immediate predecessor of the present pastor, was the Rev. J. A. R. Dickson, who entered the field immediately after completing his college course, who certainly has never yet lacked in ardour and energy, and who exercised his ministry over the church for the period of six years, leaving it much to the regret of the people to become pastor of the Northern Church, Toronto. When he assumed the pastoral office, the membership of the church was 60, and its total contributions \$648. When he left in 1871, the membership was 161 and the revenue \$1,288. During this time the church building was renovated and one of the best parsonages belonging to the body built. During the *three years* preceding his removal, 109 members were added to the church. These facts put in opposition to the statements of Mr. Clayden's letter sufficiently indicate the nature of the "youthful ardour," as well as that of the "stereotyped infirmity."

If it is alleged that reference was made to more remote predecessors, we only need to mention the names of the Revs. Charles P. Watson, Edward Ebbs, and W. F. Clarke, all of whom have been pastors of this church, to say nothing of the Rev. William Clarke, who we believe laid the foundation of this spiritual structure. To the above we will only add, that if money for a material

building is to be raised on such a false foundation as this—if one must elevate himself by seeking the overthrow of others—then we can only predict sure disaster as the result of so doing.

OUR EXCHANGES deserve notice, and therefore we make mention of some of the leading periodicals which we have the pleasure of receiving:

The *English Independent* must be placed first and foremost among them, not because it is English, but because it is eminent. Combining the *Patriot* and *Standard*, it shows a patriotism and flies a standard worthy of its predecessors and itself. It wields a power in England which is greatly needed, and one not necessarily confined to that kingdom, but which should be as wide as the empire. Its enterprise was recently shown by publishing in full the proceedings of the Congregational Union.

The *Congregationalist*, published at Boston, is not only one of the oldest but one of the best. As it increases in years it grows in wisdom and in grace. It inherits a long and honourable lineage through its predecessor, the *Recorder*. With Dr. Dexter as editor-in-chief, it is full of intellectual power, and exercises a great influence, not only in its own city and state, but throughout the country.

The *Independent*, of New York, has just completed its twenty-fifth year, which it celebrated by an historical article from the pen of its editor and sole proprietor, Henry C. Bowen, who has had an interest in it from the first. It was begun, and long published as a Congregational journal, but of late years