

On Monday evening a Soiree was held, when the house was filled to overflowing. The meeting was addressed by Revds. W. Cook, J. Tovell, E. Barker and J. Unsworth. Joseph Barber, Esq., of Georgetown, occupied the chair.

The meeting was very much enlivened by a choir chosen for the occasion. The proceeds of the collections on the Sabbath and the Soiree amounted to over \$120,00, which with previous subscriptions covered almost the entire cost of the changes made.—*Communicated.*

January 18th 1871.

Brantford.—A PLEASANT SURPRISE.—The friends of the Rev. Mr. Wood, of the Congregational Church, invited themselves to his residence last Friday evening, December 30th, as they have annually done for ten years past, and having enjoyed themselves to the full over the repast provided by the ladies, called him and his family into the sitting-room, intimating that they wished to say something to them. Mr. Edward Gould then came forward, and in a neat and appropriate address, on behalf of the young men of the congregation, presented Mrs. Wood with a very handsome Lockman Sewing Machine, wishing her and the family at the same time, a "Merry Christmas." Mr. Wood, taken entirely by surprise, had no sooner attempted to express his thanks, and those of his wife, for their very suitable and valuable present, than Dr. Allen came forward, and in the name of the young ladies, begged Miss Charlotte's acceptance (that being her birthday) of a very beautiful set of furs. A second attempt at returning thanks on behalf of his daughter, was even a worse failure than the first. However, the people kindly accepted the will for the deed, and after a very agreeable social chat, they separated at an early hour. Such kindly acts furnish their own comment. Long may the spirit that prompted them prevail!—*Expositor.*

The foregoing very pleasant surprise was followed up at the regular annual meeting of the Church and Congregation, on the 18th January, by the generous addition of \$200, to the pastor's salary, making it \$1000 per annum. The Treasurer on the occasion referred to, reported a *clean balance sheet*, the Congregation now being entirely free from debt.

Rev. J. A. R. Dickson.—CALL DECLINED.—The Rev. J. A. R. Dickson, of this city, has received and declined a very flattering call to the Northern Congregational Church of Toronto. Considering the nature of the call, and the pecuniary inducements held out, Mr. Dickson's declination speaks highly in his favor, and his action in this matter will strengthen the ties of esteem and affection which happily bind pastor and people together.—*Advertiser.*

The Rev. J. G. Manly, until recently Pastor of Zion Church, Toronto, is at present engaged as one of the Agents of the Upper Canada Bible Society, and has been visiting the Branches of that Society, in the Counties of Haldimand, Welland and Lincoln.

The Rev. H. Denny.—We regret very much to learn that the house of our venerable "Father" Denny, at Alton, was totally destroyed by fire, on the morning of the 4th January. We have received no particulars, but believe that while the loss on the furniture was partly covered by insurance, there was no insurance on the dwelling itself. Our aged friend, and his partner, have the deepest sympathy of all who know them, and we are glad to find that, unsolicited, contributions are being sent in to repair, in some measure, the loss sustained, we shall be most happy to be the medium of forwarding anything which friends may feel it in their hearts to give for that purpose. To all who thus show kindness to his servants for the Master's sake, the Master will say at last, "Ye did it unto me."

This is the fourth case of the kind among our Canadian ministry within