

state. Surely it is a fact which speaks well for the conscientiousness and self-denial of our people, that we have had a larger missionary revenue in 1858 than in any previous year. By the way I cannot help thinking some of your congregations need greatly to be stirred up, as to the matter of giving for religious objects. I may not have the means of forming an accurate judgment on the point, but looking at the contributions as reported in your magazine, they seem to be in many instances miserably small. We have been led to believe that in many of your congregations there are individuals who would not display very great liberality—except relatively—if they were to give the whole sum contributed by the congregations to which they belong. I know that your farmers have often not much money, but I suspect they are often lacking too in the will to part with it for such purposes.

An agitation has been begun in Scotland with a view to desecarianize the parish schools. This seems the most likely scheme that has been proposed in Scotland on the education question, and is sure of a large amount of support. Some will say indeed “if religion is to be taught in the schools, better have a test than be without one;” but the truth is the statements about the teaching of religion in parish schools, are mere talk. If the tests be abolished, the abolition of the Presbyterial superintendence is a corollary.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

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WHITBY.—CELEBRATION.—“TWENTY-FIVE YEARS A WATCHMAN.”

The Rev. R. H. Thornton having completed the twenty-fifth year of his pastorate of the U. P. congregations in the front of the Township of Whitby, the people of his charge becomingly resolved to celebrate the event by a social meeting, yelegt a soiree, and to invite the presence of some of their brethren from the surrounding congregations, which owed their origin, in great measure, to Mr. Thornton's indefatigable and efficient labours. The meeting was held in their large brick church, situate between the tovus of Oshawa and Whitby, on the evening of Wednesday, the 16th of Feb. The audience was large, numbering, it is presumed, about 500; and the spirit that pervaded the meeting was truly delightful,—declarative at once of christian brotherhood, and gratitude for the enjoyment, for such a lengthened period, of the pastoral services of one so highly qualified and so faithful.

Dr. Tempest, of Oshawa, was unanimously called to the Chair, and he discharged its duties in every way worthy the Christian gentleman. After a very solemn prayer by the Rev. Mr. Cassie, of Port Hope, tea was served, which did honor to the bounty and bakery of the ladies of the congregation. The Chairman then read and presented to Mr. Thornton the following suitable and interesting address, which the present writer copies from the *Whitby Times*:—

WHITBY, FEB. 16, 1859.

To the Rev. R. H. Thornton.

DEAR SIR,—The lapse of 25 years since the organization of the Church of which we are members and of which you are the minister, calls for more than ordinary notice.

The founding of the Church here was due under Providence to your first missionary labours having been directed to this part of Canada.

These labours resulted shortly in the formation of this Congregation and in your being placed as pastor over it. The formation of the United Presbyterian Church in this place at that time was a work of no small difficulty, being as it was one of the first that were established in the Province; formed too, when the country was new; the people new comers from all quarters, with various and diverse views and prejudices, and when the pecuniary resources of the members were very limited indeed.

Difficulties and trials, arising from these and other causes were constant for the