

THE ANNUAL MEETINGS OF 1873.

The annual meetings of the Congregational Union of Ontario and Quebec, and other Societies, held in Brantford, on June 5th, 1873, and following days, were characterized by unusual interest and effectiveness.

The numbers in attendance were large ; the hospitality of the friends abounded ; a good key-note was struck by the opening sermon, and a fine spirit pervaded all the sessions of the body.

Of the papers presented, special mention is due to the Chairman's Address, and the Essay of Rev. B. W. Day.

The Reports were generally encouraging in their tone, and breathed aspirations after higher things.

The action taken embraced such important steps as these :—(1.) The inauguration of an Endowment Fund for the Theological Chair of the Congregational College, first set at \$20,000, and then raised to \$40,000. (2.) The full sanction of the Pastors' Retiring Fund plan, and its incorporation with the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, under the new name of "The Congregational Provident Fund Society." (3.) The setting apart of Rev. Robert Robinson to the Indian Missionary work. (4.) The measures taken to prevent the introduction of untaught persons into the ministry, (see proceedings of Union and Missionary Society). (5.) The final acceptance of the new Trust Deed ; and (6.) The adoption of the proposal to publish a "Canadian Congregational Year Book."

Strong utterance was given to the value of our distinctive principles, and the resolve was doubtless strengthened, faithfully to maintain them.

May the next meeting in Toronto, June 10, 1874, worthily follow up that of Brantford !

The Union of N. S. and N. B. also had a prosperous session at Yarmouth, as appears by the report unexpectedly presented here.

OUR DENOMINATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

The several organizations connected with our churches, and whose reports are found in the following pages, need to have their objects, rules and methods carefully distinguished from each other, by those who would intelligently and effectively promote these interests of common concern. A few words concerning each