

it maintains a wider harmony, as it ensures a wider sympathy.

FUNK & WAGNALL's publications continue to invite attention. THE HOMILETIC MONTHLIES, for June and July are valuable numbers containing, as they do, the best and the latest of pulpit power and homiletic strength.

MEYER'S COMMENTARY, on John, is now being delivered to subscribers of the *Monthly* at the exceedingly low rates advertised. THE STANDARD LIBRARY, too keeps up its value, its later editions being Archibald Malmaison, by Julian Hawthorn and Himself Again by I. C. Goldsmith. We remind our readers that Rev. W. Briggs, King st. East, Toronto, is the Canadian Agency for this well known Publishing House.

News of the Churches.

TOTTEN.—We have received a letter from Rev. M. J. Totten, four years ago pastor of the Congregational church at Cavendish, Suffolk, England. Mr. Totten is at present at Wingham, and is available for service in any vacant church or as occasional supply.

WATFORD—June 16th. witnessed a pleasant gathering at the parsonage in this place. Our brother, Rev. R. Hay and his wife, found friends commemorating with them, the twenty-fifth anniversary of their wedding. An affectionate address and suitable silver articles were presented on behalf of the churches, over which Mr. Hay presides. We send, though late, our editorial greetings and pray that the silver quarter-century being past, the golden now may impart its richer gleams.

WHITBY.—A few historical reminiscences of the church in this place, may be of permanent interest. it is not well that the records of our pioneer work should be forgotten. We insert these mites as a contribution from a friend to our early history.

An Episcopal church near the lake, was early started and built but of the present town the Congregational church was the first, attended and supported in its early days by representatives of all the then existing denominations, who made it for a time their common religious home.

The church was organized on the 24th. Dec., 1843. Proceedings were immediately taken for the erection of a building, and everything seems to have been completed at the close of 1845.

The site, consisting in the outstart of one acre of ground, intended both for church and burying ground was the gift of the late Peter Perry, Esq., so well and honourably known in connection with all early movements for the advancement of our Town and County at large. The deed of the property being in some respects conditional, and the land covered by it interfering to some extent with the

streets as afterwards laid out, it was deemed advisable to secure a new deed if possible, untrammelled with the conditions contained in the old, leaving out the burying-ground clause, and giving a better description of the land. Such deed was obtained from the heirs-at-law of Mr. Perry on payment of a moderate sum, he having in the meantime died. The church as originally organized consisted of sixteen members. Rev. Thos. Machin was the first pastor of the church, and on his resignation in 1845, was succeeded by Rev. Thos. Snell, whose memory is still cherished with affection by those who knew him. Mr. Snell, having resigned his charge in 1848, a call was given to and accepted by the Rev. John Cunningham Geikie, a young man of much talent, who had been trained in the Congregational College then in Toronto, under the supervision of the late able and scholarly Rev. Adam Lillie, D.D.

The church under Mr. Geikie's pastorate made rapid advancement, and was attended by nearly all the leading families of the then rising town. The writer well remembers the stirring times there were during the visit of an evangelist, Rev. J. Burchard, in 1851. The church was crowded to its utmost capacity, and many professed conversion, under methods in some respects similar to those of the Salvation Army of to-day, or rather, very similar to the *modus operandi* of the old Methodist protracted meetings; so much so indeed, that a witty Methodist friend sent Mr. Burchard word to "return the borrowed tools at the finishing of the job." On one occasion Mr. Burchard announced that he would next evening preach a *hen* sermon. When next evening came, not only the sermon, but the hen was ready. A practical joker of the time (the late Mr. Herman, a man of ready wit and overflowing with good-natured fun) brought a hen along to the meeting, and at the announcement of the text set the hen afloat over the heads of the audience. The fruits of this season of revival were rather evanescent. Much good appeared to be done at the time, and doubtless much good was done, yet a large proportion fell gradually back into the ranks of the world. Besides this, the old and new elements in the church did not easily coalesce. Difficulties also arose between the pastor and some of his flock which resulted in his resignation in the fall of 1851. He was for some time editor of the town paper (called the "Whitby Reporter," I believe) and took an active part in the establishment of the Grammar School in Whitby, and in urging the formation of a Teachers' Association. He was also a strong advocate of total abstinence and gave no uncertain sound as to the duty of uprooting, if possible, a traffic so fraught with evil individually and nationally. His views were perhaps much intensified by the fact that one of the attendants on his ministry (James Tirriff, a cooper I think, who lived at Hamer's