

tion of the school shall attend Divine worship every Lord's day in some one of the churches or chapels, while there is also a monthly sermon preached to the whole school in the large room.

The anniversary is, as might be expected, a great occasion. At 11 a.m., the large hall is packed to its remotest corners with children and young people, with their teachers, no others being admitted at that hour, so as to leave all the space for the school itself. The exercises are, of course, appropriate to the young, with the exception of a few words to the teachers. The evening service, however, from 6 to 8, is the grand feature. The great hall is packed in every part with an immense audience, embracing all ranks and classes, from mayor and alderman (on this occasion the election being at hand the two rival candidates for Parliament were present, one on the left, the other on the right of the platform) to the poorest of the people. And it is not a mere mass-meeting of the churches, for they are all open as usual, though probably not so largely attended as usual; and yet not only was the hall crowded in every part, but there were listeners throughout the service in adjoining rooms and in the outer halls, and several had to go away. And this, or something like it, occurs every anniversary, so that it bears witness to the extraordinary hold which the school has on the people of the place. The amount of money raised in connection with the anniversary is always over £400. This time it was £472 9s. 4d.

I hope this long recital will not prove tedious, but I have no doubt you will understand how one may catch so much the enthusiasm of the time and place as to make it something of a relief to write some little account of it to friends at a distance.

J. MUNRO GILSON.

CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS.

NEARLY two thousand times has the circling year brought round the anniversary of Christ's birth. From almost twenty centuries of years have been returned the echoes first awakened among the hills of Judea. The name of the child thus obscurely born has become a household word in countless myriads of homes, and has been heralded the whole world over. What vast treasure has been expend-