

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE SECRETARY OF THE CONVENTION.—Dr. Davidson is not the man to "let the grass grow under his feet." He closes his labours as pastor of the Guelph church on Sunday next the 20th inst., and will immediately thereafter start out upon his arduous work as the agent of the Home Missionary Convention. He will be a welcome visitor at all the Associational Meetings which he has planned to attend. The Guelph church part with him as their pastor with very great reluctance; but nobly yield to the very unmistakable wish of the denomination at large for his *entire services*. Dr. D.'s pastorate in Guelph has been a very blessed one. There he baptized 135 believers during a ministry of four years. The church, formerly small and weak, is now large and strong, and occupies one of the finest chapels belonging to the Baptist denomination in Canada.

We trust the vacant pastorate will soon be filled by one whom the Great Head of the Church shall Himself send in the fullness of the blessings of the gospel; and that the most sanguine anticipation of the Home Mission Board in reference to Dr. Davidson's appointment may be more than realized.

THE APPROACHING ASSOCIATION MEETINGS.—Before another fortnight has elapsed the first of these gatherings will have taken place. They are always seasons of pleasant social intercourse, and profitable consultation on matters affecting the prosperity of Zion. Much valuable information is conveyed in the letters from the churches as to their numerical strength and spiritual condition.

The meetings this year will be specially interesting from the presence of the Rev. A. V. Timpany, representative of our Foreign Missionary Society, and Rev. Dr. Davidson, secretary of the Home Missionary Convention, both of whom we trust will be blest in stirring up the brethren to greater earnestness in fulfilling the last great command of our Saviour, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Our young friend and brother, Rev. John Craig, B.A., who is under appointment to go to India as one of our missionaries at an early day,

will also be present at as many of the meetings as possible. It is a pity that in some cases two Associations meet at the same time, making it impossible for these brethren to be all present at every gathering.

ONTARIO BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION.—Among the most important, perhaps, of our approaching June meetings, will be that appointed to take place in the town of Simcoe, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 6th and 7th of June, for the purpose of organizing a Baptist Sunday School Convention for the Province of Ontario. We understand the preliminary steps are about completed under the direction of a wise Committee, who will submit for approval a draft of Constitution and Rules, on which they have been deliberating for some time—the Committee having been appointed a year ago. If there is to be a denominational Sunday School Convention at all, we hope its success will be ensured from the very commencement; and that, having been once organized, it will be thoroughly endorsed and heartily supported by every friend of Sunday Schools in the denomination. The honour of originating the present movement rests chiefly, we believe, with brethren connected with the old Grand River Association, whose annual gathering for the year the Convention will precede.

BAPTIST CONFEDERATION.—The New Brunswick Baptist paper, the *Christian Visitor*, in an Editorial on our recent meetings at Woodstock,—after commending the action of the Home Mission Board in reference to the permanent engagement of Rev. Dr. Davidson as general agent, and urging the adoption of a similar course in New Brunswick,—makes the following observations on the desirability of a closer union among all Canadian Baptists:—

"Between Education, Home Missions and Foreign Missions, our Ontario and Quebec brethren have important enterprises and great responsibilities on their shoulders,—just as Baptists of the Maritime Provinces have in regard to precisely the same interests. Could a larger reciprocity and closer union be formed to prosecute these great enterprises so as mutually to help and strengthen each other, and thereby more efficiently and easily perform the work that each now separately undertakes, much good

in the way of consolidation and denominational Christian effort would, we believe, result. Perhaps the time will come, ere long, when the West and the East will see eye to eye in this matter. It is worthy of being kept in view, and earnestly and wisely pondered. A wise and just union never fails to bring increased power and strength. We are glad to perceive that though the East has lost the services of Munro, Porter, Wells, Goodspeed and others, these brethren are working vigorously and well to promote the same great cause they would labor for, were they in the Maritime Provinces. May our brethren in Ontario and Quebec prosper ten-fold in the work of God."

ANNIVERSARY WEEK.—The week that has just passed has been to lovers of religious progress, one of extreme interest. The anniversary meetings of the Upper Canada Tract Society, Upper Canada Bible Society, Evangelical Alliance, and Young Men's Christian Association, were so arranged as to follow each other in regular order, thus securing for them all an array of talent, and engendering an enthusiasm which was very seldom seen in former times when these anniversaries were held at different periods during the year. The whole of the meetings during the week were well attended and proved highly interesting to the vast audiences which nightly crowded the buildings in which they were held. The reports of the various societies are highly encouraging, and plainly evidence the fact that the interest of the Christian public in these useful and necessary institutions will rather increase than abate. Among the many excellent speakers who lent interest to these gatherings, might be mentioned the Rev. Dr. Allen, President of the American Bible Society, whose speeches proved themselves intellectual treats to all those who had the pleasure of hearing him. Taking the meetings altogether, they are among the most successful these societies have ever held, and they may be safely congratulated upon the fact that they have one and all, made real substantial progress during the past twelve months of their existence, and that they occupy a warmer place in the hearts of Christian people than they ever did before.

SPIRITS.—"The United States revenue reports show an increase of 3,000,000 gallons of distilled spirits manufactured during the six months ending in December last,