

Scotia, and supported by Vice-Chancellor Blake, and Rev. W. Millard, of Toronto, in the name of the Canadian Delegates:—

"The Canadian Delegates desire to place on record their very cordial appreciation of the exceeding kindness extended to them by the Centenary Committee, whose unwearied and most thoughtful labours have contributed, under God, so much to the remarkable success of these ever to be remembered services.

"They gratefully acknowledge the many facilities furnished, in the very comfortable and commodious headquarters of the London Sunday School Union, 'whose praise is in all the churches,' and for the generous hospitality unstintingly meted out to them. They carry home with them sunny memories of 56 Old Bailey, of the Memorial Hall, and of those other scenes of holy convocation, where the Master of Assemblies has shewn to us such tokens for good, and they earnestly trust and pray that an abundant blessing may result from the great Centennial gathering which has been so happily consummated."

London, July 6th, 1880.

Literary Notices.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH HISTORY.—By John Waddington, D.D. Continuation to 1850. (London: Longmans, Green & Co.)—This is the fourth and last of a series by the same author, this one relating the history, for the most part, of the first half of the present century. We shall have occasion to refer to the work again; meanwhile we may state that this volume has a special interest for Canada, Chap. xv. being devoted to Canadian Congregationalism; in it appear the historic names of Silcox, Climie, Wilkes, Roaf Lillie and others. The work has evidently been the result of painstaking research, and the accounts drawn from contemporary records of early pioneer work in our own Province, may well stir us up to emulate in some measure our fathers in their zeal. There were giants in those days. The following extract from a letter of Rev. A. Wells, once Secretary of the Colonial Missionary Society, addressed to the Rev. Dr. Wilkes, A.D. 1850, may tell its own tale and suggest its own thoughts: "My convictions that Colonial Missions are the first work and the wisest policy of Congregationalists, are at this time far stronger than when, thirteen years ago, I entered on the service of this vital cause—the sowing a handful of corn in the earth, the fruit of which will shake like Lebanon." "Farewell! May all good attend you! May trade revive, annexation die out, the English element in your city and Province constantly increase, the pure Gospel have power, Zion Church send forth all around its sweet light, its healing waters, all debt be paid, and all hearts be glad." Amen."

A DICTIONARY OF CHRISTIAN ANTIQUITIES. By Dr. Smith and Prof. Cheetham. 2 vols. (Toronto: Willing & Williamson.)—Bingham and Coleman in our college days were our chief guides through the mazes of Christian antiquity. This work more than supplies their place. It covers the period between the close of the New Testament and the reign of Constantine. Next to the apostolic age no period is more fraught with interest and importance to the ecclesiastical student than this. The rise of the Episcopate, the closing of the canon, what development there may be in the Baptist controversy, are all to be traced herein, and settled as herein traced. Those were the days of early church life, when without prestige or worldly power Christianity compelled the proud Roman world to hear its simple story, and planted the cross on the ruins of the Capitol. The articles are characterized by fairness as well as scholarship, and for those who cannot consult original documents are upon the whole a safe guide. This is saying a great deal when the many controverted subjects falling under this era are considered. Facts rather than opinions prevail throughout. The article *e.g.* on the Catacombs of Rome is really a volume. On the question of Baptism we read with approval: "Direct evidence of the practice of infant baptism first occurs in Irenæus, who was born probably in the year 97 A.D., and who sat at the feet of Polycarp, the disciple of St. John. Tertullian was of full age before the death of Irenæus, and in knowledge of antiquity, and of the usages of the Church, was second to none then living. And he gives absolutely conclusive proof that baptism of infants was a common practice

of the Church in his own time." As to the mode, "the ordinary mode, at least in the case of adults, was to descend into a font of water, and while standing therein to dip the head three times under water. Yet there are not wanting indications of another usage, viz., that of the administrant pouring water out of the hand, or from some vessel, on the head of the baptized." It would be a winter's work to review thoroughly, but having read certain test articles, we do not hesitate to commend it as a worthy following of the Dictionary of the Bible. We shall anxiously wait its supplement—"A Dictionary of Christian Biography, Literature, and Doctrines."

OBITUARY.

It is our painful duty to record the very sudden death of Dr. Eckardt, of Unionville, which took place on Monday, July 26th. Those who were acquainted with him will remember that to all appearances he was a very healthy man, scarcely ever complaining of sickness of any kind. He was always regarded as one who was likely to enjoy a long and useful life. Yet God's ways are not as our ways.

On Monday morning a messenger came for him to attend a case of confinement. He immediately responded to the call, and arriving at the place, finding his services were not required for a little, he took a walk, after which he sat down and was reading. Shortly a woman came in and called him, but receiving no answer concluded he must be asleep. She called again, but received no response—her feelings can be better imagined than described when she found he was dead. He still held the book in his hand as though he were reading, so that death must have been without a struggle. His brother was sent for and his body was taken home, where only a few hours before he had left in his usual good health. The previous Sunday he was boasting to one of his friends how well he was, and said he never felt better than now.

On Tuesday a *post mortem* was held, and the decision at which the physicians arrived was, that the deceased came to his death from atrophy of the walls of the heart.

His funeral took place on Wednesday, and was attended by an immense concourse of friends and acquaintances. The procession was over a mile in length, and consisted of 112 conveyances besides many on foot. The funeral service was conducted by the writer in the new Congregational church, Rev. H. D. Powis preaching the sermon from Rev. vii. 13-17. Besides the two named the following ministers were present: Rev. Messrs. Warriner (Yorkville), Cash (Michigan), Malcolm (Whitby), also Mackintosh and Carmichael (Presbyterian), and Seymour (Methodist).

The pall bearers consisted of six gentlemen of the medical profession. As the deceased was superintendent of the Sunday school a large number of children marched in the procession and sang Sunday school hymns at the service, viz.: "Work for the night is coming," "Rock of ages," and "Shall we gather at the river." The pulpit was draped with mourning, and the entire service was very impressive. The church was crowded to its utmost capacity and many could not get in.

This sudden death has cast a gloom over the whole community, as the Doctor was highly respected by all. He had a very extensive practice and was regarded as an excellent physician. He was a noble Christian man and has been a member of the Congregational Church for many years. He was always foremost in every good work, not only by his words but by his benevolence. He gave one-tenth of all his income to the Lord, and this would amount to several hundred dollars per annum.

He was one of the principal promoters in building the new church, to which he gave over \$700, and was heard to say a few days before his death that he intended to see every cent of the remaining debt paid. We little thought when building the church that his would be the first funeral sermon preached in it, yet such was the case.

In his death the family has lost a good father and a devoted husband, the Church a faithful and consistent

member, the community a good citizen. He had a very kind disposition, and was scarcely ever seen out of temper. He was always full of hope, and even when everything seemed dark and discouraging he never gave way to despondency, but was always cheerful and looked at the bright side of the picture. He took a very great interest in the young, and it was greatly for their benefit that he was so anxious to have a new church built with a suitable school room. He saw the desire of his heart but only to enjoy it for a few short months. The children will sadly miss him.

It is only nine months since two of his children died of diphtheria. They were "waiting and watching" for him, and he soon joined them beyond the river. He leaves a wife and two children, the youngest of which is only two months old. His life was insured in the "Confederation" for \$2,000.

Thus another good and useful man has passed away to his rest and reward. We felt we could not get on without him, but God knew best and took him "up higher." He is "with Christ" which is far better.

How true is it that "God moves in a mysterious way," but the consoling thought is it is the *right* way, and we can say through our tears, "Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Thy sight."

"How blest the righteous when he dies!
When sinks a weary soul to rest;
How mildly beam the closing eyes!
How gently heaves the expiring breast!"

"Life's labour done, as sinks the clay,
Light from its load the spirit flies;
While heaven and earth combine to say,
How blest the righteous when he dies!"

E. D. SILCOX.

Stouffville, Aug. 2nd, 1880.

Correspondence.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Write as briefly as possible—our space is limited—on one side of the paper only.

The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.

OUR COLLEGE.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

DEAR SIR,—Returning home yesterday after an absence of sixteen days, your issue of the 15th ult. came under my notice, and the "Wanted" of my friend, Rev. Duncan McGregor, of Guelph. His description of our needs is accurate, one of which is "a more lively interest in our College." You note, however, his remark that there is a widespread dissatisfaction with it, and very properly declare that if so there should be more done than making the statement. I am quite sure that Mr. McGregor would not have said this without specific knowledge, and certainly the Board of Directors would be glad of the information which he can communicate. He should be written to personally on the subject, only the result could not be satisfactory, for we desire to hear from all quarters whatever there may be of dissatisfaction. The College is confessedly so important to us as an institution, that we must not let false delicacy or any other consideration stand in the way of making it the best possible in our circumstances. It is not said whether the dissatisfaction is with the professional staff, or with the plans adopted years ago after careful and elaborate discussion and preparation, or with the management of the Board of Directors. Moreover, it is quite possible that it may be based on a misunderstanding of the facts of the case, particularly as it so happens that several students have recently left us without completing their curriculum. It is plain that we cannot correct misapprehension without knowing what it is, that we cannot remove what may be objectionable without being informed of that to which exception is taken, and that the dissatisfaction must continue, so far as we are concerned, unless we have the grounds of it laid before us. May I without offence express surprise that advantage was not taken of the recent annual meeting of the constituency to give utterance to complaints. Certainly every opportunity to do so was afforded. A committee might have been appointed to inquire and consider, without any suggestion from the Board. It could not indeed have made