

News of the Churches.

St. John, N. B.—Our St. John correspondent informs us that the Union Street Congregational Church, has been much improved in appearance during the past season. The singing gallery behind the pulpit has been taken down, at considerable expense, and the organ placed on the platform behind and almost on a level with the minister. Rev. Mr. Hastings, the pastor, has held open air services nearly all summer on Sabbath afternoons, which were attended by large audiences. On Sunday the 20th October, he commenced a series of lectures in the Theatre. The following account of which appears in the *Morning Journal* :

“SUNDAY THEATRICALS!”—So one might have exclaimed on Sunday afternoon on seeing the crowds pressing into the Theatre in King’s Square. They were, however, going not to a play but to a sermon, the Rev. Frederick Hastings being preacher. He addressed a very large, a very miscellaneous, and a very well behaved audience. Many of them did not look like church going people, but being all on an equal footing in the Theatre, they seemed to be quite at home. Mr. Hastings’ subject was “A Bad Bargain,” and his text, “What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?” He first treated of bargain making, showing that people liked “to get a good bargain.” He then brought out and applied the ideas in the text in a plain, pointed, and kindly way, fitted to do a great deal of good. Some of the audience said on coming out that “the sermon was first-rate.” It would strike any one on hearing an address of this kind, that the preacher is compelled by the nature of the audience to be more direct and brief and to speak in plainer language than is usual in ordinary discourses from the pulpit. It might be well to see such services sustained by several ministers. It is too much for any one minister, who preaches two sermons every Sunday in his own pulpit, to keep them up. Mr. Hastings has done well to commence these sermons. He formerly preached occasionally in the Square in the open air. There is to be a service at the same hour on Sunday next.

The Rev. J. Elliot, Congregational Minister, in this City, has intimated to the Church and Congregation his intention of removing, in the Spring of next year, to Salem Church, Halifax, N. S., in connection with the London Colonial Missionary Society. The departure of the Reverend gentleman, from Ottawa, will be deeply regretted, not only by the members of his own congregation, but by a large circle of friends and admirers of other denominations. During his stay in Ottawa, in connection with the London Colonial Missionary Society, Mr. Elliot has proved, in all cases, zealous in the discharge of his duties, a hearty sympathizer with the unfortunate and distressed, and a true preacher of glad tidings and good will to all men. In his new sphere of action he will, we are sure, prove as useful and win as kindly feelings as he has done here.—*Ottawa Citizen*, Nov. 13.

Mr. Elliot’s removal from this city will be regretted, not only by the members of his own congregation, but by the whole community. Few clergymen have, during their stay in our midst, won for themselves such universal regard and esteem. While we congratulate our Halifax fellow-subjects on the acquisition of a preacher of no ordinary merit, a gentleman whose Christian walk and conversation have endeared him to all who knew him, we do so with feelings of no ordinary regret that their gain should be our loss. During his residence amongst us Mr. Elliot has not been an idler in his Master’s vineyard. Aside from the faithful performance of the arduous and more immediate duties of his calling, he has been a ready helper of every good work. And when he leaves our city he will carry with him the heartfelt wishes, for his future welfare, of all who had the privilege of knowing him.—*Ottawa Daily News*, Nov. 12.