

are usually held is drawing near. It is always an anxious time for pastors and office-bearers. There is anxiety about the balance—anxiety about the reports, anxiety about the attendance, and truth to say there is sometimes more or less anxiety lest some of the brethren say or do unpleasant things. Some men never think a congregational meeting a success unless they go home swinging somebody's scalp in their hand.

One good way to make a congregational meeting pass off smoothly and pleasantly is to have the work well prepared a few days before the meeting takes place. No small part of the friction that sometimes arises at congregational meetings is caused by bringing the business before the meeting in a crude, unprepared state. Many office-bearers have their own business to attend to—some have a hard fight for bread and butter, and cannot give as much time to Church business as they would like. Still, for the sake of a good meeting, every good man ought to be willing to make a special effort. Such meetings usually come but once a year.

And at the present time, before congregational meetings begin, would it not be well for every body to refresh his memory with the fact that the work is the Lord's work, and should be done in the best possible manner? Devotional study of the one hundred and thirty-third Psalm would also help.—*Knoxonian, in The Canada Presbyterian.*

Correspondence.

MR. HALL'S LETTER.

(FROM ENGLAND)—NO. 2.

DEAR EDITOR,—I think I told you that in my voyage across old ocean I was not in that condition in which men usually pay homage to Neptune; but if I was not "sea-sick," I must confess that since I have been in England I have been often "home-sick." This is, perhaps, not to be wondered at when you think that I had left a country in which, though so large in comparison with this, I am so thoroughly at home, for a land which, though we call it "home," is to me comparatively a land of strangers. Then you know, Mr. Editor (for you are an Englishman), that your countrymen are cool, distant, unresponsive in comparison with those who have for some years breathed the purer air of the New World. Yet I like England and English people for all this; they are not as good, I think, in some respects, as the Colonists. Nor is their church life, so far as I have been able to form an opinion after six weeks' sojourn, equal to ours in spirituality, self-denial and earnestness. I will not judge at present, but keep eyes and ears open as I go along. Certainly, I have noticed a marvellous change

in Nonconformity since I last visited England. There has been, and is still, great depression in trade, but I fail to see any connection between this and small congregations, unsettledness of belief, and widespread worldliness in the church; but more on this subject three or four months hence. I have met with great kindness in my travels.

After the union meetings I spent a few days in London, addressed two meetings, one in the Markham Square Church, of which the Rev. J. L. Foster is the esteemed pastor, and another in a church close by.

Had a pleasant, and I think successful, time at Bishops Stortford, with a most intimate friend of my boyhood, the Rev. John Wood. Meetings on the Sunday and a lecture on Monday evening resulted in the formation of an auxiliary of the Colonial Missionary Society, and the appointment of a collector. Many kind inquiries were made for our brother in Woodstock, Rev. Wm. Cuthbertson, a former pastor of the church. It is one of those old and historic churches that date away back for almost centuries. There is also a Nonconformist Grammar School here which I visited, and was glad to find the principal, Rev. Mr. Alliot, and also some of the masters, much interested in Canada, and in Colonial work generally. From here I went to

YORKSHIRE,

the stronghold of Nonconformity in the North of England, I am told. My first Sunday was spent at Leeds, preaching in the morning at East Parade Church, where Rev. E. R. Conder, D.D., author of the "Basis of Faith," "A Life of Christ," etc., has been pastor for almost a lifetime. He is still vigorous and youthful, is in full sympathy with Colonial Missionary work, and wields great influence among the churches in these parts. In the afternoon of same day I addressed a mass meeting of Sunday school children and others in Kirkstall Congregational Church. It is a new and very beautiful building, with a large Sunday school, and, I think, earnest workers. We had an enthusiastic meeting. In the evening I preached in Queen's St. Church to a large audience. The following Sunday they would make collections for the Colonial Society. I was the guest of W. Williams, Esq., editor of the Leeds *Mercury*, one of the large and powerful dailies in these parts. During the week I was the guest of Rev. Dr. Conder, from whom I have received very great kindness and help. Sir Edward Bains, who is a member of his church, was one of my hearers on Sunday. He expressed himself much interested in our Colonial work, and said that from his knowledge of Canada, he was sure I had not exaggerated or overdrawn the picture. I next visited Bradford where I was cordially received and entertained by Rev. A. Duff, LL.D., professor in Airedale College. He is full of enthusiasm in all good works, goes through an amount of labour, not only in connection with his