

in Dr. Owen's "Nature of a Gospel Church," respecting the eldership. These views proved acceptable to the church, and accordingly it may now be addressed in like terms as the church at Philippi—"with its bishops and deacons."

Another church has made a change in the deaconate, by limiting the period for which deacons will serve to three years. The number was fixed at six, two to retire annually, but being eligible for re-election."

#### OBSTACLES.

From so many sources the complaint comes of conflicting sectarianism, as an evil that blights and destroys much good. One field in the west may be cited in illustration. The pastor writes: "Since we have had a resident minister here, the Primitive Methodists have secured a permanent station and place of worship; the 'old Kirk' have secured a hold and have built; the 'Free Church' have regular preaching; the Lutherans occasionally; the 'Disciples' have organized and secured a preaching place, and are taking the leading interest at present. There is strong talk of building for the Church of England; the Catholics are going to build; the Episcopal Methodists are taking prospective glances towards the place. The old Wesleyans and Congregationalists of course do not advance much. All the people are very liberal, and, like the Athenians, fond of hearing any new thing; hence they favour every new comer with their presence, and encourage him to think there is an open field for him and large congregations."

Another phase of the same evil is developed in a report from an eastern missionary station. "The great difficulty with us is the almost endless multiplicity of sects and parties, and the settlement of so many of our places of worship on what is called the 'Union Trust,' giving several parties a legal right to the use of the same chapel or preaching room. This plan (continues the pastor), though it appears liberal and fine in theory, is fatal to the prosperity of the churches. This has long been felt to be a grievance. Three times during the past winter I have been notified that I need not go in regular turn to ———, because the Universalists, who have a share in the chapel, intended to occupy it on that day. At other times, on going to hold an evening service, we have learned that the place has been occupied in the preceding part of the day by one who has been teaching the people that man has no more of an immaterial spiritual nature than a cabbage!"

In conclusion, this review indicates very encouraging results of labour, especially among the young, an unfaltering purpose to labour on, even at the most trying posts of service; and a steady improvement in the material condition of Zion, indicative of a time of favour from the Lord. It becomes us to set up a memorial stone, and to inscribe it "Ebenezer," for hitherto the Lord hath helped us!

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## News of the Churches.

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### BOND STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, TORONTO.

[The following notice was prepared for insertion last month, but through some postal mistake, came into the hands of the editor too late. It is believed, however, that it is still of sufficient interest to have a place in the magazine. The walls of the building have risen so rapidly, that it is now ready for the roof, and there is every prospect that it will be opened in October.]