

Jarvis Street Church.

At a well-attended meeting of the congregation, held on Monday evening the 8th inst., to consider the question of securing a permanent occupant for the vacant pastorate of this church, the Trustees were authorized by a unanimous vote, given very heartily, to extend a call to the Rev. H. W. Woude, of Newburgh, N. Y.

This decision will, we are sure, be most gratifying to all who had the pleasure of hearing Mr. Woude's sermons and lecture during his recent visit here, and especially so to those who had the opportunity of making his acquaintance. As a preacher, they found him strong, eloquent, scholarly, liberal, reverent; as a lecturer, to these qualities he united versatility, wit and a fine literary sense: as a man, he seems possessed of all the gifts and graces of a man of the world in the best sense—large-hearted, genial, human, companionable, one whose conversation both delights and stimulates. Should Mr. Woude accept the call, of which we believe there is a reasonable hope, he cannot fail to stir in our people fresh courage and enthusiasm, and to give a strong impulse to the cause of liberal religion generally throughout this city, where the knowledge of its great, simple, joyous, inspiring truths is so greatly needed.

Mr. Woude was with us over two Sundays, April 16 and 23. His introductory sermon was on "The Heart's Cry and the World's Answer." It dealt with the great enigma of human life, with its seeming incompleteness and injustices, its mysteries of evil, pain and death. Three answers to this enigma were to-day challenging attention. First, agnosticism said simply, "I do not know," which was no answer at all. It could not be true, because there was no comfort in it; it made life a cruel mockery. Secondly, there was the still more cruel answer of orthodoxy, which made the destiny of the vast majority of men an eternal despair and the universe a stupendous failure. Thirdly, the answer of rational Christianity was that nothing was lost, that God had not failed, that this world and all worlds were good, that pain and suffering were parts of a loving plan to purify and ennoble human character, and that not one soul would be cast as rubbish to the void, but universal good would be the final goal of all. The subjects of the other discourses were "By Unknown Ways," "Working and Resting," and "Where is God and What is Sacred?" all of which were rich in practical thought.

On Sunday, April 30, our pulpit was occupied by Rev. Frederick A. Hinckley, of Florence, Mass., one of the ablest of the young preachers of the liberal faith about Boston. His two sermons were fairly aglow with deep spiritual suggestions.

Mr. Woude's lecture on Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice" under the auspices of the Young People's Association on the evening of April 19, was a great treat. The leading characters in the drama were most graphically set before the audience, and so analysed as to reveal the poet's wonderful insight into the deepest springs of human nature. The lecturer's finished rendering of portions of the play, particularly the casket scene and the court scene, were greatly enjoyed. Col. Chas. R. Pope, the American Consul, himself a Shakespearean scholar of distinction, presided.

An ice cream social was given by the ladies in the lecture-room on Tuesday evening, May 9, in aid of the choir fund.

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH, JARVIS STREET, TORONTO,

Between Wilton Avenue and Gerrard Street.

SERVICES ON SUNDAY AT 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
ALL SEATS free. Strangers made welcome.

SUNDAY SCHOOL at 12.30, after the morning service.

This church invites the active co-operation of all who wish to see the cause of rational Christianity promoted in this city. It has no fixed creed demanding the assent of its members. The only declaration in which they are asked to unite is a "bond of fellowship" in the following terms:—

"Believing that religion to be true and vital should be an active faith, showing itself in pure lives and helpful charity and kindly interests to all within its reach, and feeling that a closer organization will strengthen our Church, we whose names are hereunto subscribed do therefore consent to work together in the freedom of the truth, and in the spirit of Jesus Christ, for the worship of God and the service of man."

THE POST-OFFICE MISSION.

This is a modern method of mission work peculiar to the Unitarian Church. It is carried on by a club of "stay-at-home missionaries," mostly ladies, and consists in the circulation through the mail of Unitarian and other liberal religious literature, in the form of books, pamphlets, sermons, magazines and newspapers. Thousands of persons—many in whom the abandonment of old beliefs had been followed by a state of doubt or negation, many living in small towns or remote country districts—have to thank the post-office mission for opening to them the treasures of our joyous, satisfying and inspiring liberal faith.

UNITARIAN LITERATURE WILL BE SENT FREE to anyone desiring it, on application to Mrs. C. M. Bertram, 220 Beverley Street, Toronto.

The Young People's Association

OF THE

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH, TORONTO,

meets regularly every alternate Thursday evening during the winter months.

The objects of the Association, as set out in its constitution, are "the mental, moral and spiritual improvement of its members, and the promotion of the social life and prosperity of the church with which it is connected."

Any person who sympathises with these objects is free to join on payment of twenty-five cents a year.