

of members of their families. To stir up the pure minds of the brethren by way of remembrance, we gladly record a request made at one of these meetings,—That all the ministers in our churches remember one another at the throne of grace every Sabbath morning.

#### THE RETIRING CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

was delivered immediately after the prayer meeting on Thursday morning. The thanks of the body were presented to Rev. Joseph Elliot for his valuable address as retiring Chairman, with a request that it be published in the *Canadian Independent*. We have much pleasure in placing it before our readers in the present issue.

The balloting for the new Chairman issued in the election of the Rev. A. J. Parker, of Danville, who, on assuming the chair, appropriately called for divine assistance by engaging in prayer. Several items of business were then attended to, among which the Rev. W. Clarke reported his attendance at the Canada Presbyterian Church Synod, as delegate from the Union. He had been received very kindly, and met with a generous response to the fraternal sentiments he had expressed, and intimated the intention of the body he had visited to reciprocate the expression of brotherly love, by the appointment of Dr. Burns of Toronto, and Mr. Hugh Young of Hamilton, to represent their Synod at the Union.

#### THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

Rev. K. M. Fenwick presented a report of the Canadian Congregational Missionary Society. There have been 34 missionaries employed during the year; 28 of them engaged by the General Committee, and 6 added by the action of District Committees, 5 of them being in the Western District. The report represents the field as on the whole encouraging, although there are not so many instances of conversion and addition to the churches as on some former occasions. One missionary has left the field. On looking over the ground, there is reason for thankfulness, and at the same time for humility. The report was read, considered, and ordered to be printed by the Missionary Committee.

W. R. Hibbard, Esq., of Montreal, Treasurer of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, was heard on behalf of that important Society. Continued prosperity marks its progress. The subscriptions of the members and the interest on investments have been paid. Next year, according to the constitution, a review of the rules of the fund would take place. On the 1st of August a collection from the churches was requested, which it was hoped would show an interest in the movement, that all would give something. Gratitude was especially due to God for his tender preservation of those connected, as during four years no claim has arisen. The importance of a lay deputation to visit the churches was much felt. We hope kind friends in Montreal or Toronto will be found ready to do a good work in this matter; it is deeply felt that Montreal has already done nobly.

Rev. E. Ebbs, Secretary of the Union, presented a statistical report and chronological table of the churches; also a table of comparative statistics for the last four years. Owing to the fact that a number of churches had failed to send returns, the figures for the year are as yet incomplete. This was felt