

aged to take part in the singing, in the responsive reading of the scripture, and in repeating the Lord's prayer. In a very important sense they should be made to feel that the preaching service is *their service*, just as much as the Sunday school session, or any of the social services of the church." To this we heartily respond. Children *are* part of the church and congregation, and *family* Christianity ought to be more fully recognized. We are not so sure, however, of what follows:—"Special pains should be taken by the pastor to recognize the presence of the children in the congregation." The italics are our own, and indicate our exception. Leave that word out, and again we say Amen; but why children should have a *special* place any more than servants, parents, masters, etc, we cannot understand. Use the word *appropriate* and we agree. In simple language, children, as well as adults, have a part in the kingdom, and they should be recognized. They should "grow up" in the courts of God's house, planted there by His grace, not *trans*-planted as too much of our popular theology would have them. Give the church the family feeling, and *special* places will not be needed. This is our solution of the matter, and as that sentiment prevails our difficulties in this direction will vanish. Make the church a home, and all will find their allotted place.

TUESDAY afternoon, 24th ult., found us on our way to the fair city of Guelph. As we went of our own accord, without notice, we walked up to the Wellington Hotel and took our quiet quarters there. After a comfortable supper and some little attention to our toilet we started for the Congregational church, which we found lighted up, warm, comfortable and empty. We noticed with pleasure a fine new organ occupying the corner on the right of the pulpit, a commodious platform for the choir, evident marks of recent care upon ceiling and walls, all combining to make the Guelph church one of the most pleasing buildings our denomination possesses, with, we believe, the exceptional feature, *free from debt*. A seemly white cloth covered the elements on the communion table, a most inviting aspect. Soon friends began to arrive, the Western Association, with the church, having arranged to sit together that evening at the communion table. We soon

learned that owing to the snow blockade, friends Dr. Gunner, Totten, Allworth, and Silcox had been unable to arrive, and our energetic friend Black, of Garafraxa, being actively engaged on the Scott Act campaign, was also *non est*. Friend Wethereld, however, was there, and preached a most effective sermon; the pastor of the church, Mr. D. McGregor, presided at the communion, assisted by Mr. H. D. Hunter and Mr. H. Hughes. A large number of the Guelph friends were present; a sweet communion passed too soon away. We must say a word of commendation for the sweet manner in which the organ was played, and the efficiency of the service of song. There was no attempt at display, but heartiness and taste prevailed.

THE next morning opened with an hour of prayer. Ministers do not appear well at these early seasons of prayer; a little of their own urging of attendance on prayer meetings may with profit be self-applied. Whether from the companionship of the previous evening, or the over-kindness of the hospitable friends, or from whatever cause, the hour spent in prayer before Synod, Union, or Association, has ever in our experience, been commenced by the "two or three," seldom rising to the full quorum of the members present. Nevertheless, it passed in warm and direct supplication at the mercy seat, and left its influence on the day. We shall not enter into detail, nor do more than characterize the original address of Mr. C. S. Pedley on "Our Spiritual Forces," full of definition and bold, out-spoken, thoughtfulness, in which God was defined as the great spiritual force of the Church; Mr. Gordon-Smith's practical paper on the "Utilizing of our Denominational power," in which some not very flattering comparisons were made between our gatherings and those of the old land, called forth some rather spicy, though good natured, rejoinders from several present; Mr. Wethereld's earnest paper on "Home and Church Life," which laid special stress on the church in the house, and Mr. Hunter's kindred paper, of which we only heard the beginning (having arranged to leave by an afternoon train), were full of suggestive thoughts.

WE expect the new secretary of the Association to supply us with a report of the meeting; we may record our impression of the