

they all seem to be running smoothly, and to be all impelled by the same force. It is to be hoped that many may be drawn to the Saviour, and that those who are His may grow in likeness to Him, and in an intelligent and full knowledge of His will. Votes of thanks to the choir and the various officers brought the meeting to a close.

MANILLA.—The friends of Rev. George Whyte met together and organized a conversazione, at which Mr. and Mrs. Whyte, ere their departure, were presented with an address and a purse containing \$40.

PARKDALE.—This church, we are glad to note, closed its year with a clear balance sheet, and it has done reasonably well in the reduction of its debt. A larger number of members than during any previous year have been added, and the outlook is hopeful. The pastor has worked hard with often little encouragement, but brighter days have dawned; may they grow brighter still.

PINE GROVE.—The annual New Year's Tree and entertainment in connection with the Pine Grove Sunday School was held on New Year's Eve. The night was very stormy, but, notwithstanding this fact, a fair-sized audience assembled to hear the pupils and other friends sing and recite, and to share in the joy afforded by the distribution of gifts from a well-laden tree. The entertainment was an excellent one, and was heartily enjoyed by all present. The Rev. Mr. Shortt, of the Episcopalian Church, favoured us with his presence and an address. On Wednesday evening, January 5, the annual business meeting of the church was held. In order to create interest, and ensure a larger attendance than usual, the ladies determined to make the gathering partake of a social character. Tea was served during the afternoon, after which the various reports were listened to, and the business transacted, the utmost harmony and Christian good-will prevailing throughout. Printed reports, containing a statement of the financial condition of the church, and various societies connected therewith, were circulated, which showed that although the church has had disadvantages to contend with, and has lost much by removal during the year, there are still reason for hope and encouragement to those interested therein. W. A. Wallis, Esq., who has been connected with the Sabbath school for upward of twenty years, resigned his office as superintendent. The church placed on record its appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. Wallis, and elected him to the position of honorary superintendent. On January 10 and 11 missionary meetings were held in the churches of Pine Grove and Humber Summit, respectively. The deputation consisted of Revs. W. F. Wilmott, of Unionville, and A. W. Richardson, B.A., of Caledon and Churchville. Both these gentlemen gave stirring and interesting addresses on missionary

topics, and the only regret is that there were not more out to hear them.

ST. THOMAS.—The Congregational Church in St. Thomas does not often report through THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT, because it has little of general interest to communicate. During last summer and thus far into the winter, our congregations have been small and our revenues on the decrease. The cause of this is partly the loss of a few regular subscribers who left the city early last summer, whose places have not yet been filled. Another reason seems to be the determination of the people to misunderstand the voluntary system and weekly offering. They attend very irregularly, and escape payment by staying at home. *The means taken to set this matter right avail nothing.* I believe now that the pew-rent system would have secured a better attendance here. I have not resorted to that measure for over thirty years, and should hate to go back to it. Our cause here has failed to bring in any but the poor and labouring class, and this fact has a tendency to perpetuate itself. Men of means, generally speaking, keep away from poor churches, for obvious reasons. Another thing that has kept down our congregations is the distance they all live from our church. We have not one family belonging to us living near the church, although we have some north, east, south and west, but all at considerable distances, and in bad places to get out in stormy weather. We have several members proposed now, but none living near the church. At Christmas time we had a very successful festival and entertainment for the Sabbath school. We gave each of the children a present, and had left over \$20 in the treasury, after sending for our papers, quarterlies, etc. We have about sixty-six children on our roll. A member of the Baptist Church, living near, gave a social at her house in the interest of our church. It was a very stormy night, and scarcely any of our own people were present, but neighbours and friends made the time a very pleasant one. The unsolicited kindness shown by one denomination toward another is worth recording. With much that is discouraging, there are some things that are hopeful here.—W. H. A.

ST. JOHN, N. B.—There was a large attendance at the prayer meeting of the Union Street Congregational Church on the evening of December 23 last, when at the close of the services Rev. J. B. Saer, B.D., the pastor, was presented with a handsome marble clock and two bronze pitchers by the congregation. Mr. Saer deserves such tokens of regard, and the friends in honouring him do honour to themselves.

TORONTO BOND STREET.—This church held its annual meeting on Wednesday evening, 12th ult., at which the reports of the various organizations of the church were read. A large increase, spiritually and financially, in the affairs of the church was reported.