

News of the Churches.

LISTOWEL.—The Rev. W. F. Clarke, late of Guelph, who was appointed pastor of the Congregational Church of this place, a few months ago, had a formal welcome extended to him at his new residence, on Thursday evening last, by a number of our leading citizens. Mr. Clarke and family having moved into their newly built residence a few days ago, and being comparative strangers in town, a number of our town folks, with their characteristic good judgment, thought the best way to get acquainted was to go in a body, finish up the business at once, and see that the new house was properly 'warmed' according to the usual custom. After the house had been comfortably filled, Mr. D. D. Hay, M. P. P., was asked to occupy the chair, and a very complimentary address accompanied by something more substantial, in the shape of a purse, was presented to Mr. Clarke as a mark of the the esteem in which he is held by the people of Listowel.

To the Rev. W. F. Clarke.

DEAR SIR.—As members of the Church and congregation in this place to which you acceptably minister we gather here this evening to offer yourself, Mrs. Clarke, and family our kindly greetings and congratulations on your settlement amongst us, and on your recent occupancy of this your new home. We are pleased at the evidences of taste and comfort which we see, and trust you may long live and continue here to enjoy the happy society of your own family, and the social intercourse and companionship of an increasing circle of appreciative friends and co-workers in the cause of religion and human progress. In an age remarkable alike for great material progress, intellectual restlessness and activity, and an intensely secular spirit; when the soundness of system and creeds is being on all hands called in question; it is important that religious teachers, whether clerical or otherwise, should be men of earnest piety, scholarship, and ability, having also a thorough knowledge of the world and liberal views of truth. In a word, the exigencies of our times seem to us to require that religious teachers should be religious men among men of the world, and men of the world among religious men. We highly appreciate, Dear Sir, your able services in the defence of religion, against the criticism of modern scepticism, your liberal views of christian truth, and your admirable illustrations of the elements of a true christian character and manhood, based on Gospel principles and promises, and the lessons drawn from sacred narrative and biography. As a slight token of our appreciation of your service in these respects, I have pleasure in the name and on behalf of the donors, in tendering you this purse, which they ask you to accept as a token of their esteem and confidence. With renewed expressions of our esteem and regard for yourself and family, and an earnest and prayerful desire that you and they may receive richly of the Divine favor, and be long spared as co-workers with us in the cause of our common Master.

The reply of Mr. Clarke, which we cannot insert in full, expressed his pleasure at finding himself in the midst of such a people, his devotion to his work, his ideas as to the preaching of the Gospel, and closed by saying: "It is especially gratifying to me, that I have received so kind a welcome from the ministers and members of other denominations, and the people of the town generally. I hope to work with them in hearty co-operation for the promotion, not only of the cause of religion, but every other worthy cause, and I sincerely trust that your good wishes, ex-

pressed so kindly, may be crowned with abundant fulfilment."

After the reply, short addresses were made by the Mayor, Mr. Scott; Mr. Hay, the Reeve; Mr. D. D. Campbell, Mr. B. Rothwell, Mr. R. Ferguson, Mr. A. B. McCullum, Dr. Nichol, the Rev. J. W. Bell, Dr. Fowler and others, all of whom bade Mr. Clarke a hearty welcome to this place and hoped he might long be spared to use his talents in laboring for the good of others. Mrs. Clarke had abundantly provided the good things of this life, and after all had partaken, a short time was spent in the enjoyment of music, and the company retired. We may only add that during Mr. Clarke's brief residence in Listowel, his labors, both in the church and out of it, to aid in whatever tends to make men better, are highly appreciated by all classes of the community; and we are glad to know that merit, of which Mr. Clarke has more than an ordinary share, is fully recognized by the people of Listowel.—*Listowel Banner*.

SARATA.—On the evening of Dec. 8th, the young people of the Congregational Church here gave a farewell Entertainment in the Old Church as they expect to move into their new building before the New Year. The performance was good and reflected much credit on Mr. C. Taylor and A. Brown who spared no pains in getting it up. The music, both instrumental and vocal as well as the readings and recitations was rendered in excellent style. The only regret being that on account of the severe cold, many were hindered from being present who would otherwise have shared the enjoyment.

Literary Notes.

A GREAT PAPER. We desire to call the attention of our readers to one of the greatest newspapers of the age—one that secures the best writers in this country and Europe, regardless of expense; has the best and fullest book reviews of any paper in the country; has able articles upon financial subjects; has departments devoted to Fine Arts, Biblical Research (something that cannot be found in any other newspaper in the United States), Farm and Garden, Insurance, Weekly Market Reports, Cattle Market, Prices Current, Dry Goods Quotations, etc. in fact, a newspaper fully suited to the requirements of every family, containing a fund of information which cannot be had in any other shape, and having a wide circulation all over the country and in Europe. We refer to *The Independent*, of New York. "The largest, the ablest, the best." See advertisement, in another column, and send for specimen copy.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE FOR 1881. In 1881 *The Living Age* enters upon its thirty-eight year of continuous publication, and it steadily increases in value with its years. Its frequent issue and well-filled pages render it a satisfactorily fresh and complete compilation of an indispensable current literature—a literature which grows richer and more abundant every year in the work of the most eminent writers upon all topics of interest. In no other way can so much of the best of this literature be obtained so conveniently and cheaply as through the columns of this standard weekly magazine. Its value to every American reader is, therefore, obvious. It supplies the place of many magazines, reviews and papers, and alone enables the reader, at a small expenditure of time and money, to keep well abreast with the best thought and literature of the day. The prospectus is worthy the attention of all who are selecting their periodicals for the new year. Reduced clubbing rates with other periodicals are given; and to new subscribers remitting now for the year 1881 the intervening numbers are sent gratis. Littell & Co., Boston, are the publishers.

THE December number of *The National Sunday School Teacher* will be in demand. It contains a capital Christmas Concert Exercise by the editor just such as superintendents now are on the lookout for. It has some admirable hints and suggestions on Reviewing, and the Reviews for the past quarter and the present year. Rev. W. F. Crafts contributes a timely article on "Genesis Read in Bible Lands," and "Pansy" has in it one of her bright and attractive contributions, entitled "Glimpses of Daylight." The lessons not only are well treated, but well illustrated. The last number of the year decidedly is the best, and gives prophetic proof of the excellence of this journal for 1881. Send for a specimen copy of it, and its associate juvenile helps to Adams, Blackmer & Lyon Publishing Co., 147 and 149 Fifth Avenue, Chicago.

ST. NICHOLAS.—A pleasant announcement made by the editors is that they have secured for their next number a story of Indian life by Inshitahamba, (Bright Eyes), the daughter of an Omaha chief, who has been travelling through the States during the last two years under the protection of two of her kinsmen, trying to rouse the conscience of the whites to the rights of her race. Miss La Flesche (for that is her English name) makes now, we believe, her first essay as an author, but she cannot but succeed if she gives as dramatic pictures of the daily domestic life of her people as she has hitherto done in her addresses. She has broad culture and keen perceptive faculty, and she has given herself up to the cause of her people with a simplicity and passionate singleness of heart that must rouse sympathy in every man and woman whose own instincts are true and pure. *N. Y. Tribune*.

DENOMINATIONAL NOTES.

Dr. Goodell of St. Louis says Congregationalism is like a velocipede, its safety consists in keeping on.

Here is one of President Merriman's pithy utterances at the Worcester Congregational Club. "There is a great deal said, now-a-days, about ministers that draw. Would to God we had some churches that would draw."

No man in the whole body left a more pleasant or marked impression at the St. Louis Council than Rev. Alexander Hannay, Secretary of the Congregational Union of England and Wales. Both his sermon and his address won the hearts of his hearers. He was honored with a reception at the fine residence of Mr. Keeler on Grand Avenue, on Monday evening, after the final adjournment of the Council, at which about eighty persons were present; and the number would have been much larger but for the fact that many had felt obliged to start immediately for home, and others on the excursion to Drury College and Indian Territory. Mr. Hannay has now sailed for home, carrying the best wishes of multitudes to whom he was a stranger on reaching our shores.

The ministers of Nonconformist churches in the town and county of Leicester are about to be put in possession of advantages which we should gladly see extended to their brethren throughout the country. On New Year's-day, a Ministers' Library, well supplied with "works of a theological, philosophical, and scientific character, also works of general literature reflecting, as far as possible, the thought of the past and the present," will be opened for their use at Wycliffe Church, College street. The library will consist of books of reference and books of circulation, and every effort will be made to render the institution, which is entirely undenominational, a real boon to the important class for whose benefit it is provided. The credit of its establishment belongs to the Mayor of Leicester, Alderman Bennett, who, without any trammelling conditions, placed £200 at the disposal of a committee organized to give effect to the suggestion, refusing, in a spirit of self-denial which deserves honourable recognition, to have the library named after him, lest such a course might, in time to come, prevent others from adding their contributions to its shelves. The Leicester Board of Nonconformist Ministers, in recognition of the service thus rendered by the chief magistrate, invited the Mayor on the 9th inst., to a public breakfast, at which interesting addresses were delivered. The Rev. I. Morley Wright, in proposing the vote of thanks, said the library would supply a need not met by any libraries accessible in that locality. He regarded this as the inauguration of a most important work—opening a channel in which might flow the gifts of laymen and of churches for the intellectual advantage of their ministers, and urged the desirability of securing an adequate annual income from the various churches, to ensure the replen-

ishing of the library from time to time with new issues. We shall be glad to find the example thus set promptly followed in many other districts.

APPROPRIATE TEXTS FOR SPECIAL SERMONS.

As singular an appropriation of a text as we ever remember to have met with was made by an obscure minister in a little seaboard village on the coast, upon the occasion of its remoteness and isolation being invaded by a railway and its attendant train. Our old friend improved the occasion by discoursing from Nahum ii. 4 "Chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall jostle one against another in the broad ways; they shall seem like torches, they shall run like the lightnings." Among our reminiscences of appropriate texts is one instance, when the writer was a boy. Trinity Monday, in Deptford, was the great day of the Trinity House there—that celebrated old house in Church Street, anciently known as Saye's Court, the house of John Evelyn, the great friend of Charles I. and of Jeremy Taylor. From this house it was the custom, on this day, for the Masters of Trinity, of whom the Duke of Wellington was the head, to walk to the old parish church to listen to a sermon. It is a pleasure to remember that we trotted along close by the side of the Iron Duke to the old church of St. Nicholas, where the preacher was the then highly celebrated Henry Melville, in the full fame of his sonorous and trumpet-toned eloquence; nor are we likely to forget how, as his rich tones rolled out his text, "and let him who is greatest among you be as one that serveth," the eyes of the whole congregation seemed involuntarily to turn to the corner of the old square pew, where the victor of a hundred battlefields sat still, quiet, and apparently quite unconscious that the glancing of all that crowd of eyes implied the sense that, humanly, he was the greatest there. We must say that there was no further reference to the duke; on the contrary, it was a splendid piece of homage to the dignity of the lowly service.

We remember another occasion of the choice of an apt and happy text by the same great preacher, in the chapel of the Tower of London, preaching in the presence of the wreck, ravage and ruin of the great fire there. "Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be?" And the text was similar on the Sunday evening following the burning of the Royal Exchange (Rev. xviii 15-18): "The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off . . . weeping and wailing, and saying, Alas, that great city! . . . for in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off, and cried when they saw the smoke of her burning." Such illustrations as these do not offend good taste, and sometimes a text may be so impressive as to be really in itself a sermon; it at once points and fixes the meditation of the hearer. Morris, in his "Recollections of Robert Hall," tells us that when Hall was at Leicester a member of his church died in one of the almshouses at the extraordinary age of one hundred and seven years. No text could be more appropriate than that of the great preacher (the words in Acts xxi. 16). "An old disciple;" but it is singular to believe that this sermon, of which we have no outline or record, was, perhaps, one of Hall's mightiest masterpieces, if not his mightiest. A gentleman wrote to Mr. Morris, "it was a funeral oration. The subject of it was an obscure old woman. The splendor of his imagination burst forth, and he poured out such a torrent of eloquence on the head of indigent worth as delighted all who could hear and understand him."—*Rev. Paxton Hood*.