



Ferdinand Schiverea.

AMONG the Christian workers present at the Niagara Conference for Bible Study, held in 1884, was Mr. Ferdinand Schiverea. By his earnestness as a Christian, and his genial disposition, he won the affections of all who met him. On invitation of Mr. H. B. Gordon, Chairman of the Devotional Committee of the Toronto Y. M. C. A., he was invited to spend a day or two in Toronto. His addresses while in the city were blessed of God, and he was asked to re-visit Toronto in November, 1884, and conduct a series of services for young men. Again in 1885, he took up similar services, and the results were very gratifying.*

Ferdinand Schiverea was born in New York. His fa-

ther was a Roman Catholic and his mother a Protestant. Ferdinand, though christened by Bishop McCloskey, saw the fallacy of the Romish faith at a very

early age. He was sent to a Protestant Sunday-school until he was about nine years old; and at that age he was taken from the public school and obliged to work on account of his father falling into drinking habits, and reducing the family to poverty. Withdrawn from the religious influences which might have been brought to bear upon him by his mother, he grew up reckless and with little desire for spiritual things. Taking a liking for the stage, he made up his mind to prepare for it in the Negro minstrel line. Naturally gifted as a dancer and mimic, he bade fair to attain popularity as a performer; but soon he drifted into a tramp life. After



a brief experience in that direction, he resumed his steps toward the stage, working at whatever he could get to do, and embracing every opportunity for better

* We may say that Mr. Schiverea, at the close of these meetings, held ten days' services at Brampton, and he returns in February, 1886, to remain about six weeks, labouring in some of our city churches.