

member of our congregation where it was he attended church. A frank reply elicited something like the following from the inquirer: 'The Congregationalists are a very good people, but they have no creed; you should not belong to a church which has no creed.' Now if it was meant that we have no man-made creed which we compel persons to repeat as a shibboleth of faith it was true, for we have none. Was it meant, however, that we have no agreement as to faith and doctrine, a great mistake was made. As *Protestants*, of Protestants we claim that the Bible is our creed, and as true Catholics we will have no other. And what are the results? That none hold the cardinal doctrines of the Scriptures with greater unity and tenacity than do Congregationalists; that over and over again for the past three hundred years have these doctrines been boldly announced by mutual agreement; that defection from the faith of Apostolic Christianity to Romanism is unknown among us; that there is with us greater unity in the faith than in any of the creed-clad churches; and, finally, that we are not forced to subscribe to strong Calvinistic articles of faith and adopt Arminian sentiments, or to a Protestant formula while in heart and practice many are Romanists—and we are saved from that subterfuge of Jesuitism of maintaining a mental reservation, while an iron-clad oath is taken which it is not intended to keep. It was at a great price our fathers purchased back this freedom for us, purchased by our Lord, and we intend to hold it most sacredly."

Official Notices.

CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF ONTARIO AND QUEBEC.

The annual meeting of this body will be held (D.V.) in Montreal, in Emmanuel Church, commencing on Wednesday, June 9th, at 7.30 p.m., when the Rev. H. D. Powis, of Toronto, will preach the annual sermon.

The attention of churches and their pastors is respectfully called to the 12th standing rule of the Union (see "Year Book" for 1879-80, page 49), in regard to the annual collection for the Union on the Sabbath next preceding the meeting; and also to the Report of the Finance Committee of last year, on the same subject ("Year Book," page 61). "Each church," in the rule referred to, is intended to mean every church connected with the Union, and not those only which are actually represented by delegates at the annual meeting. Last year barely one-half of the churches complied with the rule, and the consequence was that the sum of \$320 had to be deducted from every minister's and delegate's expenses. It is earnestly hoped that such a deficiency may not again occur from the same cause.

Reduced Fares.—The various railway and steamboat companies offer the usual reductions to those about to attend the meeting of the Union. The Grand Trunk, Great Western, Canada Central, and Northern, and Hamilton and North-Western will give return tickets for one and one-third fares; the last named, however, only on a guarantee of ten ministers or delegates travelling over their line. Brethren interested will send me word at once. The Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa and Occidental Railway will give return tickets for one fare.

The Ottawa River Navigation Co. will issue return tickets at one and one-third fares.

The Richelieu and Ontario Steamboat Company will carry those attending the meeting at the following rates, meals and berths included: Hamilton to Montreal and return, \$15.75; Toronto to Montreal and return, \$15; Bowmanville to Montreal and return, \$13.25; Port Hope and Cobourg to Montreal and return, \$11.75; Kingston to Montreal and return, \$7.50; Prescott to Montreal and return, \$5; Cornwall to Montreal and return, \$3.50; Quebec to Montreal and return (meals and berths extra), \$3.

Brethren will please let me know by which route they intend to travel, and whether by more lines than one, when writing for certificates, which must have my signature, and be presented on purchasing their tickets at the beginning of their journey.

JOHN WOOD,

Sec. Con. Union of Ontario and Quebec.

Ottawa, May 13th, 1880.

CANADA CONGREGATIONAL INDIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of the above Society will be held in connection with the meetings of the

Canada Congregational Union, to follow that of the Canada Congregational Home Missionary Society on Thursday, June 10th, 1880. JAMES HOWELL, Sec. Orangeville, May 13, 1880.

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION.

ON Tuesday, 11th inst., the Central Association met in Zion Church, Toronto, and reorganized. Rev. H. D. Powis, chairman, and Rev. J. I. Hindley, M.A., Secretary. Rev. J. B. Silcox preached from 1 Peter 1. 19. The reasonableness of our faith as grounded upon testimony. On Wednesday morning the Association met again and continued in session with an adjournment until 7.30 p.m., when the meeting was closed. The following resolution, moved by Rev. J. Burton, B.A., seconded by Rev. J. I. Hindley, M.A., was unanimously carried:

"That this Association would record its deep sense of the loss sustained by the country in the death of the Hon. George Brown. They would recognize with gratitude the important part he has taken in the formation of our Canadian nationality and liberties; and his energy as a journalist, and also his worth as a private citizen. They would express their deep sympathy with his bereaved widow and family, commending them to the consolation of a sympathizing Saviour, and the reunion hereafter. May the God of all comfort comfort them in their affliction."

A committee was also appointed to tabulate the debts on the church buildings within the membership of the Association, with a view to some scheme of lightening the burdens. A paper was read by Rev. E. D. Silcox on the Powers and Uses of Association, and led to a long conference on the isolation of our churches; a committee was appointed to put in the form of resolutions, to be submitted to the next meeting of the Association, the results of the conference. Harmony and practical earnestness characterized the meeting.

[Not having received from the Secretary the full minutes of the meeting, the above short sketch has been supplied by one of the ministers; we hope to give a more complete report next week.—Ed. C. I.]

THE LABRADOR MISSION.

As some months have passed since we have had any news to report from Labrador, we send the following. Writing in the beginning of January, the Rev. Mr. Butler speaks of the winter so far as having been almost the coldest we had ever experienced on the coast. A kind of influenza was very prevalent amongst the people and specially trying to Mr. Butler himself. He remarks on the good order and quiet in the settlement with grateful satisfaction, there being a marked change in this respect from last year. Although the people seemed more thoughtful, he deplored their lack of appreciation for the work done, and regrets that they do not seem to grow in unselfishness, or in an earnest desire for spiritual things. The death of a young girl, quite suddenly, in November, a former boarding scholar at the mission, made a deep impression on many minds, especially of the young, and we cannot but hope that good may flow from it. Mention is also made of the death of an old Esquimaux woman (the only full Esquimaux thereabouts), who did not know her own age but was supposed to be nearly one hundred years old. She was a sensible, kind-hearted faithful old woman. It was difficult to ascertain from herself how much she really understood, but both Miss Warriner and Mr. Butler trusted that the light of the Gospel had penetrated her mind, bringing comfort and hope.

Quoting Mr. Butler's own words, we find the following: "Some of the meetings held of late have been of marked and solemn interest. The school has gone on well—some necessary repairs have been made on the building, which make it more comfortable for all. The attendance is larger than last year. The children had their usual Christmas tree, which proved very attractive to both old and young, and passed off very successfully. Miss Warriner also has a large school—quite as many as there is accommodation for—another season the building will have to be enlarged, I think."

The rigid rules of the INDEPENDENT will not permit further quotations from these Labrador letters, especially as there are yet some words to be said on

behalf of the Society. Since the last appeal to the readers of the INDEPENDENT we have been much cheered by a few contributions (acknowledged in this paper, 8th April). Our thanks are many and sincere to those kind friends, and we trust that others, knowing our need, will also do their utmost to help in keeping this little Mission alive. Year after year Mr. Butler has been persuaded that he must give up the work of missionary-pastor in Labrador, on account of his failing health. With the exception of one or two short trips home, he has laboured on in spite of increasing weakness, since the year 1864. His invaluable and unselfish devotion to the Mission, has induced him for some time to remain at his post in spite of personal risk to his health, because we have been unable to find anyone to take his place. But he feels that the time has now come when he must permanently leave, and he intends doing so early in the fall. We have found it impossible, hitherto, to find one, able and willing to offer himself as a successor in this self-denying work, but we trust that God Himself will raise up some one suitable in this emergency. When present lately at one of the meetings of the Canadian Presbyterian Missionary Society, we were deeply interested in the various reports and accompanying statistics. There everything seemed to contrast with our poor Labrador affairs, as the Society rejoiced over a surplus of funds, increase of labourers, etc. Reflecting quietly over this it seemed that possibly some of the blame of our present feebleness, should come home to ourselves. However this may be viewed, let us at least entreat all the members of the Society, and every one interested in our work, to make it individually a subject of prayer, that the best way of carrying on the mission may be made clear, and that means may be provided for its support. Following this, we may and should expect an increased interest, renewed blessings, and a well-filled treasury.

Communications to be addressed as heretofore to Mrs. Wilkes, 249 Mountain street, Montreal, P.Q.

E. TOLLER,

May 10, 1880.

Cor.-Sec. Lab. Miss. Society.

News of the Churches.

LISTOWEL.—It is with much regret that we learn of the resignation of the Rev. A. F. McGregor from the pastorate of the Congregational church in this place. Mr. McGregor's announcement of his intention, on Sabbath last, was no less a surprise to the majority of his congregation than it is to the townspeople in general. He has, we understand, private reasons for the course he has decided upon, though there is neither dissatisfaction with the labours connected with his sacred calling, nor thirst for an increase of "stipend." Though it is only a few years since Mr. McGregor, then a young man fresh from college, entered upon the work of the ministry in this place, he has, both by precept and example, made his influence to be greatly felt for good, and, apart from his church connections, we are sure that the departure of none more than him will be more generally regretted. Since he came to Listowel he has, in addition to his special duties, been ever ready to ally himself with every useful work, whether for the diffusion of literature, the promotion of temperance, or other means calculated for intellectual and social improvement. We should have been pleased had he chosen to remain with us a little while longer, but since he has decided otherwise, we can only wish him God speed in whatever part of his Master's vineyard he may, in the future, be called upon to labour. —*Listowel Banner.* Rev. W. F. Clarke has been invited to supply the first two Sundays after Mr. McGregor's departure.

COBBOURG.—The annual tea and business meeting of the Congregational church was held in the school house on Thursday evening, the 6th inst. Tea was served from seven to eight, after which the meeting was called to order by the pastor. After the usual devotional exercises, reports from the different departments of the church were presented to the meeting, shewing the church to be steadily gaining ground. The membership has increased during the year, nine