

like the original to keep some old people quiet. But Salem now goes, not to be a place of worship at all, but from being a house of God to become a place of merchandise.

News of the Churches.

BURFORD.—The annual meeting of this church took place on January 13th, at which time the fiftieth annual report was presented, the church having just celebrated its jubilee. The financial report was especially gratifying, the church having raised for all purposes two hundred dollars more than during the preceding year. Seventy-four new members were received into the church, five by letter and nineteen by profession of faith, twelve of whom came from the Sunday school; against this we had to place the loss of four members by removal to Brantford. Rev. W. Hay, the long-loved pastor still ministers to us, his preaching being appreciated more and more. During the past summer a rest was given to him, and Mr. Mason, one of our students, for five months filled the pulpit and visited the people with great acceptance. The report of the Sunday school was encouraging. The Bible classes have increased in numbers and interest. The school has a large library, this year were added one hundred volumes. The school uses the Pilgrim quarterlies and Bible lesson pictures, and furnishes its teachers with Peloubet's notes. One remarkable fact is that during the fifty years of its existence the school has had only three superintendents. Mr. Elliott was the first, he was succeeded by the late Samuel Gammage, and he by the present incumbent, who has been connected with the school first as teacher and since in his present position, for twenty-three years.

DUNSTON SCHOOL HOUSE.—Though this name never appears in the reports it has been a field for Christian effort for many years. A week-night service is conducted, alternately, by the Methodist and Congregational pastors of Melbourne and Richmond. Most of the families are Congregational or Methodist. A Union S. S. is held. At the annual school festival the building was crowded; the story of the advent was recited, sung and dialogued. Many took part, from the toddling lisper to the advanced pupil. Addresses were given by Rev. George Robertson and Mr. Alexander McDonald, superintendent of the Melbourne Congregational S. S. We hope to be able to report still further advancement as the year rolls by.

GEORGETOWN.—The annual meeting of this church was held in the school room on the afternoon of Thursday, July 4th, 1886, and notwithstanding the inclement state of the weather, was largely attended and was of peculiar interest. During the year previous to the one through which it had just passed it was without a pastor and struggled along the best it could with supplies, and although not utterly cast down, yet a feeling of despondency had taken possession of a number of its members and adherents, but under the able and devoted management of Mr. J. W. Pedley, who was ordained as pastor in June last, this feeling has entirely disappeared and given place to one of great hopefulness as to the future. During the past season the regular congregation has doubled itself. The attendance on the Sunday school has materially increased, and an interest has been awakened in the prayer meeting never

before experienced in the history of the church, the number meeting regularly every Thursday evening being most encouraging. The pastor also meets a class for the study of the Sunday school lesson every Monday evenings which is largely attended. Also the finances of the church in every department are in a flourishing condition, the Treasurers of the different funds reporting in every case a sufficiency (and in many cases a surplus) for the running expenses of the church. The most gratifying report of the financial standing of the church was that of the Treasurer of the church building fund, who reported that the efforts of the church during the past summer had been instrumental in entirely freeing the building from debt, with a small surplus on hand, consequently we start out on another year thankful for the past and hopeful for the future.

GUELPH.—Last month the young men of the Congregational church here gave a New Year's social. The largest number of people that ever filled the basement greeted them on the occasion. The young ladies were particularly interested in seeing how the young men would acquit themselves in the discharge of the responsibility assumed by them, viz: that of attending to all the details involved in the preparation of the tea, serving the tables, and carrying out the musical and literary programme prepared for the occasion. This is the way a city paper noticed it:—"In their shirt sleeves, with white ties on and looking as neat and tasty as could be desired, the young men of the Congregational church attended to every want of their numerous patrons. The social was gotten up entirely by young men. They decorated the church, procured the victuals, got up the tea and arranged and carried out the musical and literary programme, and more than that they paid all the expenses out of their own pockets, in order that the gross receipts of the social might be devoted to the organ fund. The spread was simply excellent, and it is said made the ladies jealous, while the waiters were so kind, attentive, obliging and smart that one could not resist aiding in keeping them at work. The annual meeting of the church and Congregation was held on the 20th ult. After partaking of tea the friends spent over an hour in social intercourse. The annual reports of the church and different societies were then submitted as follows:—Pastor's, Treasurer's, Ladies' Association, Women's Missionary society, Ladies' Sewing Circle, Sunday school, and Young People's association. The Pastor reported 22 as being received into the church during the past year. The Treasurer reported the total amount raised for all purposes to be \$2,160.46. The several reports were very encouraging. Though suffering from removals, the church has now the largest congregations it ever has had. The Women's Missionary society is doing an excellent work, in deepening and widening the interest both in Home and Foreign Missions. The Young People's association is doing much to band together the young people of the church and congregation. Mr. John W. Clarke has been chosen President, and Mr. Robt. Howell vice-President. The general plan of work adopted by the association for this year is as follows: one evening is devoted to "extempore speaking," another to the study of "men and books," a third to "scientific talks," and a fourth evening is spent in the reading of "The Quill," a manuscript paper made up entirely of original matter, contributed by members of the association. The general plan here