

In the month of April, the Deacons presented a Report to the Church, to the effect that the Pastor had intimated that it was his desire, for family and personal reasons, to visit England during the following summer or autumn, provided it could be done without detriment to the interests of the Church; and that, as he had been invited to represent our Canadian churches at the great Jubilee Meeting of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, it was his purpose, if practicable, to be present at the autumnal meeting of the Union. The Deacons, after giving to this matter the careful and respectful consideration it demanded, were unanimously of opinion that, on denominational as well as on personal and private grounds, the Pastor should be enabled to make this visit; but that, in the interests of the Church, it would be preferable it should be made in the summer rather than in the autumn months. They accordingly recommended the Church, that leave of absence be granted the Pastor from Sunday, April 24th, to Sunday, July 31st, inclusive, and this recommendation was unanimously concurred in, the Pastor pledging himself, in response thereto, to do all that in him lay to make his visit beneficial to the Church and to the Denomination at large. In order to afford all the members of the church and congregation an opportunity of meeting him before his departure, a largely attended and successful social meeting was held on Wednesday, April 20th; and on the 23rd, Dr. Stevenson sailed from Halifax and after a prosperous voyage arrived in England in time to be present at the May meeting of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, from all of whose officers and members he met with a very cordial reception. After a very satisfactory and successful visit, both publicly and privately, he returned, in good health and vigour, on July 30th, and on the first Sunday in August he resumed his public ministrations among us. During the months of May and June, the pulpit was supplied by Ministers from divers places:—the Very Rev. Principal Grant, of Kingston; Dr. Buckham, from Vermont; the Rev. F. H. Marling, of New York; the Rev. J. G. Sanderson, of Danville; Rev. Dr. Brostow, of Burlington; Rev. T. G. Sargent, Brookline, N. H.; and Rev. D. O. Clark, Stoughton, Mass., rendered the church willing and valuable services.

The Ladies' Aid Society, thinking it would be well to take advantage of the absence of the Pastor, to accomplish an object which had long been needed, viz. the thorough cleaning, and tinting of the walls of the building, suggested to the Trustees that the church should be closed after the first Sunday in July until the first of August for this purpose, and the Trustees accepting their suggestion recommended accordingly. But it was found that there would be a difficulty in completing the work within the time originally contemplated; and so the Church, on recommendation of the Trustees, resolved to suspend the public services on the Lord's