

become helpers in foreign work. There is nothing more short-sighted or unreasonable than the policy pursued by many of our churches and members in this matter. The Ladies' Auxiliary in Edgar is doing grand service to the cause of missions, both home and foreign; the children of the Saboath school are also trained to the work. The past year has been one of great blessing in all the work of the churches under Mr. Wright. In

## DALSTON

a very nice brick building has been erected. It is certainly one of the neatest country churches I have seen, seating capacity 200, beautifully finished both within and without, at a cost of about \$2,000, of which only \$300 is unprovided for. There is a congregation of from sixty to one hundred, and also a church organized since I was last here. They expect to open a Sunday school at once. Special services extending over several weeks resulted in the awakening to an interest in spiritual things of quite a number of young people and others.

## RUGBY

is the third church under the care of Mr. Wright, involving three sermons on Sunday, and a drive of twenty-four miles. Here, too, we had a good missionary meeting. The buildings both in Edgar and Rugby have been repaired and improved during the year, and before long the former place will have a new church edifice. Within a few miles of Rugby is the thriving town of Orillia, where we should have a church, and the wonder is that we have not had one long ago.

While in Barrie I learned from Mr. Hindley that we have a small property in the township of

## NOTTAWASAGA

in the 9th concession, north corner of lot No. 23. Nearly forty years ago the Rev. John Climie had a small church erected, and services were conducted by himself and others for some time. The building has long since disappeared, but the lot, which is about an acre of good land, has been used and is still as a burying-ground. Mr. S. Burchill, on whose property the lot is situated, is the only remaining member, and for thirty years he has been the guardian of the property. He has had it fenced and otherwise improved from the proceeds of the sale of lots. Efforts have been made again and again, and legal proceedings commenced to dispossess him, but of course in vain. He has just given a deed of the property to the Congregational body, and placed the same in the hands of Mr. Hindley and myself as trustees. Nottawasaga is not far from the flourishing town of Collingwood, where before long we hope to begin a Congregational cause, and the property may be of some use in that connection. I give these particulars not only because they may interest some of your readers, but that they may be recorded for guidance in the future. If any one should

like to enquire further regarding the history of this place, address Mr. Samuel Burchill, Sunnidale Corners P.O., Ontario. You would oblige me by sending him the issue of your paper containing these facts. For all these years he has stood firm by his Congregational principles, and true to his trust. I deeply regretted that my time was so arranged that I could not pay him a visit. Should he be in the land of the living when I return to those parts, I shall certainly arrange to see him, for in these days of *non-denominationalism* it is refreshing to meet a man who has convictions on that subject, and who is not ashamed to avow them.

Yours truly,

T. HALL.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA.

MR. EDITOR,—After receiving from the Rev. C. C. Otis the communication which appeared in your issue of the 1st inst., I wrote to him for further particulars and have just received the following reply, which will be of interest to your readers.

Yours truly,

S. N. J.

DEAR BROTHER,—I am just back from a short visit to Victoria where I found seven or eight Congregational families, and from twelve to fifteen young men. No doubt there are others I did not find. They are all anxious for a Congregational church. Most of them, to be sure, are working with other churches for the present, but they feel that they have no church home. Many of the young men, finding no church of their own, drift about from place to place until they become indifferent and at last drop out of church work altogether. Moreover, Victoria is growing rapidly. At least one hundred dwelling houses and fifteen or twenty business houses are now building. The population at present is estimated at 12,000 and is rapidly increasing. Standing as it does so near to the open sea it furnishes the first port for ocean vessels entering the Sound. A railroad one hundred miles long is now building on the Island with the rich coal fields as its northern, and Victoria as its southern terminus. Its position also makes it practically the terminus of travel over both the Canadian and the Northern Pacific railroads. It is the most beautiful city in the North-West. Its natural parks and splendid roads make it the great pleasure route of this region. Its climate is much like that of Southern England. With such a position, with such natural resources, with such scenery, and with such a climate, it is destined to be the largest city in the North-West, as it is now the most beautiful.

But in all this city with such a present and such a future, the Congregational denomination is doing absolutely nothing. For the sake of our own families and our own young men who are already there, for the sake of those who are to come, for the sake of