

sons. The congregations are good, averaging in the morning about fifty, in the evening seventy-five. Three years ago the church was so weak both numerically and financially, (about 20 members, and a debt of \$1100), that some friends were ready to consign it to the tomb, and praise the good done. But believing in the final perseverance of the saints, the church concluded not to die, but live and do a work for the master. A neat fence has been put around the church, a comfortable shed has been erected without in any way encumbering the church. We congratulate our friends upon their record. May abundant prosperity be theirs.

Woodstock.—One of the most English looking towns in Ontario to the eye of an old countryman, is the beautifully situated, symmetrically arranged and good architecturally built town of Woodstock, with its air of refinement, comfort and wealth. Judging by its manufactories and stores, it has enterprise; and by its residences, prosperity; by its recent additions, progress; by its college, culture; and by its churches, religion. To this fair town we hailed on Dec. 15th, and were met at the depot by a blinding blizzard that almost bid defiance to the congratulations we carried to the noble host of Christian folk who recently organized a Congregational church there, and were that day to have the installation services of their first minister. It is not to every such service we go with as glad a heart, and thankful spirit, but through the snow we pushed our way to the Court House, to give a right hearty welcome to a brother beloved, whose good self, devoted pastoral labour and honored ministerial position in the Congregational body of England, it was our privilege to know, and thus by 11 o'clock we were by his side, at once recognizing the well known face of one of the most genial and cultured hearts of the champions of English nonconformity. Since our last meeting he has been passing materially through the process of "physical reduction," but mentally, we found him as strong and vigorous as ever. After indulging in a few reminiscences in this re-union, the hour arrived for the business of the council called to interview our friend Rev. Wm. Cuthbertson, B.A., late of England and Chicago, prior to his settlement as pastor of the First Congregational church in the above town. The Rev. Thos. Hall was appointed moderator and Rev. G. Fuller corresponding secretary. The roll of delegates invited from the churches to form this council read as follows:—Brantford, Rev. G. Fuller and Messrs. J. O. Wisner and G. E. Adams; Embro, Rev. E. D. Silcox and Messrs. Macaulay and Duncan; London, Rev. H. D. Hunter and Deacon Allen; Stratford, Rev. C. E. Gordon-Smith and Messrs. D. D. Hay—C. Packert and A. Alexander as correspondent members; Toronto, (Northern), Rev. J. Burton, B.D., Messrs. H. Clarke and Geo. Hodgett; Woodstock, Deacon White, McDonald and H. McClune. The Rev. W. Cuthbertson presenting certificates, testimonials, etc., from the church of which he was pastor and the ministerial associations of which he was a member, which were highly eulogistic and thoroughly satisfactory, and the call of the church and the acceptance of the invitation being explained by Deacon White, the Council unanimously agreed to proceed with the installation service in the afternoon. Accordingly at 2 o'clock a fair audience met in the Court House, when the Rev. H. D. Hunter, M.A., of London, conducted the opening service. A statement of belief and purpose was very

tenderly and concisely given by the pastor elect. The installation prayer was offered by the Rev. C. E. Gordon-Smith, of Stratford. The charge to the pastor, which took the form of a welcome rather than a counsel, was given in a short, well expressed, and most appropriate address, by Rev. J. Burton, B.D., of Toronto, and the charge to the people came right from the heart of Rev. G. Fuller, in an address characterized by beautiful simplicity, devout earnestness, personal appeal and practical purpose. The whole tenor of the service was of devoutness, gratitude and hope. A sumptuous repast was provided in the Town Hall, reflecting much credit on the ladies of the church, of which between four and five hundred partook; after which a platform meeting was held, presided over by the new pastor, who gave one of the best congregational speeches it has been our privilege to hear since we left the old land. Then followed some wise and kindly words to pastor and people from Rev. T. Hall, H. D. Hunter, J. Burton, E. D. Silcox and C. E. Gordon-Smith, interspersed with music and song. The success of the day greatly gratified our friends of the new church—they are a hearty and earnest people and deserve the results they have achieved. A church building worthy of their surroundings and prospects, on a prominent site, will be another object of interest in the town in the coming year, and we augur for them soon with a suitable place of worship, and such a minister as they have been so fortunate to get in the person of Rev. W. Cuthbertson, B.A., with God's blessing, as strong and prosperous a church as any in the town, and that Congregationalism in Western Ontario will be able to point yet to Woodstock as being one of its great strongholds. C. E. G.S.

CONGREGATIONAL PROVIDENT FUND SOCIETY.

Since the last acknowledgment, the following sums have been received for the Provident Fund:—

Northern Church, Toronto, \$50; Frome and Shedden, \$9.35; Embro, \$9.10; Unionville, \$5; Chebogue, \$5. The receipts so far are behind those of last year; this fact should only have to be mentioned in order to bring a response from those churches who have not yet contributed. The receipts from all sources have so far been sufficient to pay the two past quarter's annuities amounting to \$580, leaving nothing on hand towards the payment of the next two quarterly annuities.

CHAS. R. BLACK, Sec'y-Treas.

OBITUARY.

Fell asleep in Jesus, at the residence of her husband, near Warsaw, Hancock County, Illinois, on the morning of the 14th December, 1888, Minnie, the beloved wife of Rev. J. F. Malcolm, pastor of the Congregational church of that place, and formerly of Whitley, Ont. Mrs. Malcolm had been ill for over a year prior to her decease, but her long illness was interspersed with periods of comparative good health, affording bright hopes of ultimate recovery until within a short time of her end.

She was the only child of the late Stephen Fuller of Whitley, and was dearly loved by a large circle of friends, in whose heart her memory is embalmed with spices of sweetest odor.

She was received into the fellowship of the Whitley church on profession of her faith, in August, 1870, said church then being under the oversight of Rev. Mr. Miller.

She was married in June, 1878, to the then pastor, Rev. J. F. Malcolm, and proved in every respect a model minister's wife, and by her enlightend zeal, and activity in all christian work, as well as by her meek, gentle, and loving spirit, endeared herself to all who knew her, not only in Whitley, but in the respective fields of labor in Michigan