

little ones of the family. We cannot afford to do without the bright eye and merry laugh, and are only too glad to know that THE INDEPENDENT is looked for by our little friends.—ED.]

Here is a word, not from a little one, but from a sturdy friend near the sea, for which we are also grateful :

“The CANADIAN INDEPENDENT is, in my opinion, continually improving, and is looked for with increased interest. Regularity was the great need.”

News of the Churches.

BARRIE.—A little information from our church in Barrie might interest some of the many readers of THE INDEPENDENT. I have thought it as well to let you know what we are doing, or we might, in the absence of a settled pastor, be thought to be sleeping; but in case this should be your impression, let me tell you what we are doing. Our regular meetings have all been kept up during the fall; we have had a conversazione and a concert, realizing about \$53 as the proceeds. On Wednesday, December 15, we had a church members' social—its object being to bring the members into a closer union with each other. On Friday evening last we had a Home Missionary meeting; though the attendance was small, we had a very pleasant time, and I suppose the delegates will tell you all about it. I suppose it has reached you that we have been fortunate in securing the Rev. J. R. Black, of Garafraxa, as pastor, and we pray that this has been ordered by the Great Head of the church, who doeth all things wisely and well. Mr. Black commences his ministry here on the 1st March next. We are only sorry he cannot come sooner, but through the kindness of our Mr. Hunter, and other friends outside, we will do the best we can. We are all longing, hoping, praying the time to come when we shall have a pastor all our own.—J. V.

BOWMANVILLE.—Mr. Warriner, the deservedly esteemed pastor of this church, was surprised on the evening of the 20th ult., by his Bible class presenting him with a finely framed photograph of the entire class. Such indications of good will and affection are encouraging to the pastor, and stimulating to the givers. We delight to chronicle such.

LONDON.—For six or seven weeks past we have been obliged to hold service in the lecture room, while the church proper was being re-painted, re-carpeted and otherwise beautified. A choir gallery was then also built in the rear of the pulpit, which was brought forward for that purpose, and the choir transferred from their former position behind the congregation. No comments are required on the improvements thus effected in the song service. On Dec. 12 the re-

opening services were held, the pulpit being occupied by Rev. Mr. Cuthbertson, who, in his kindly and sympathetic manner, addressed cheering and encouraging words to the London Church. Amid our joy there is, however, a tinge of sadness. On December 4, at the same hour, we buried the beloved superintendent of our Sunday school, Deacon A. T. H. Johnston, and a member of our trustee board, Robert James. They died within twenty-four hours of each other. Seldom are met two more genial, kind-hearted, whole-souled men. For years Mr. Johnston had been connected with the Sunday school, and almost continuously for the past ten years he had been at its head. His character is perhaps best expressed by the motto on the Sunday school floral tribute at the funeral service—“Ever faithful.” Mr. James, though only for the past two years associated with our church, won many hearts by his kindness and good-nature. He was a thorough Christian, and was rapidly taking a prominent part in church work. As our pastor stated in the memorial service, on the Sunday following, “Humanly speaking, there were not two men in the church who could be less spared.” At present it seems impossible to fill the vacancy. We trust, however, that these saddening circumstances may be the means of a revival of interest throughout the church.

MAXVILLE.—The annual meeting of this church was held lately, and was well attended and encouraging. The pastor occupied the chair, and opened the meeting. Various reports were then presented from the secretary, the Sabbath school superintendent, the Women's Missionary Society, the Mission Band, and the Young People's meeting. Two deacons were added, and set apart to their office, additional to those already acting. There was raised for all purposes \$804.30; of this \$73 was given to our Home Mission. \$130 to Foreign Missions, \$34 to the College, and the Provident Fund and Union were also remembered. During the year we were blessed with an ingathering of a large number who gave themselves to the Lord. The annual missionary meetings were held on the 6th and 8th of December. Revs. B. W. Day and J. Wood were with us; the meetings were well attended, and the proceeds were in advance of the past year, being \$85. In Martintown the missionary meeting was held on the 7th, and was also successful, being in advance of last year.

WINNIPEG.—The anniversary social of this church was held on Monday, 13th ult., and was largely attended. The building was adorned with evergreens and mottoes, presenting a very handsome appearance. The supper, a very tempting one, was no inconsiderable feature. Mr. Richard Waugh occupied the chair, and the proceedings were enlivened by an organ solo and musical selections. Rev. J. B. Silcox,