

separate petitions, shewing, as he thinks, how this teaching would be developed.

With reference to the second point we notice—purity of communion—we cull one or two sentences. "Without dwelling on the possibility—which I do not, myself, however, for a moment doubt—of an honest clergyman's being able actually to prevent the entrance among his congregation of persons leading openly wicked lives, could any subject be more vital to the purpose of your meetings than the difference between the present and the probable state of the Christian Church which would result, were it more the effort of zealous parish priests, instead of getting wicked poor people to come to church, to get wicked rich ones to stay out of it." Further, "Lest in any discussion of this question it might be, as it too often is, alleged that 'the Lord looketh upon the heart,' let me be permitted to say . . . that, while indeed it is the Lord's business to look upon the heart, it is the pastor's to look upon the hands and lips; and that the foulest oaths of the thief and the street-walker are, in the ears of God, sinless as the hawk's cry or the gnat's murmur, compared to the responses, in the Church service, on the lips of the usurer and the adulterer, who have destroyed not their own souls only, but those of the outcast ones whom they have made their victims."

It is not our purpose now to criticise or further to follow these letters; we shall return to the subject. We only wanted to give the readers of the INDEPENDENT an idea of the new movement in the Established Church of England, the welfare and purity of which must largely affect the state of religion in the fatherland. These are brave words spoken by a strong man, and we shall await with interest the upspringing and fruition of this seed, for we think that it will not fall to the ground and die.

THE Annual Convention of the "Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance for the Total Suppression of the Liquor Traffic," is announced to take place in Toronto, on the 15th inst. The subjects to be discussed are of a thoroughly practical character, and we join the promoters in expressing a hope that all temperance workers, and friends of the cause, will attend the Convention.

How much easier it is to talk than to work, and how glibly men can speak and write about things of which they are practically ignorant. We notice in one of the Sunday school periodicals this month an article on Sunday school work by one who was once pastor of a church in one of our western cities, but whose utter indifference to, and neglect of his school disheartened the teachers, and helped largely to the final violent rupture of the pastoral connection. "Lord, have we not taught in Thy name?"

News of the Churches.

NORTH ERIN.—The members of this church and congregation lately gave their pastor, Rev. F. Wrigley, a surprise, presenting him with \$10 in money and many other gifts of value.

MANILLA.—An entertainment took place in the Congregational church, on Christmas night. The lady members of the church collected amongst themselves the sum of \$45 which they presented to the Rev. D. McKinnon, their worthy pastor, as a token of their love and esteem. M. N. McFadyen, of Sunderland, occupied the chair. Interesting addresses were delivered by the pastor and J. McKinnon, of Manilla, and others. The attendance was good.

SARNIA.—The Ladies' Aid in connection with the Congregational church here, held a most successful bazaar on the 16th and 17th of December. A few months ago this society handed over to the Building Committee the sum of \$133, to help on with the new church. They then set to work energetically, as ladies can, to prepare for a bazaar to replenish their treasury. Friends from other churches, seeing their efforts to help themselves, contributed a number of small articles which helped to make up a grand display

of fancy and useful articles. The tables also were kept well supplied with roast beef, turkey, ducks, oysters and all the other good things of the season. And the "hum" resulted in over \$200, which we consider good for "hard times."

FROME.—The anniversary of Frome Sunday school this year proved to be one of the most interesting ever held. The plan adopted was the wise one of leaving the children to give almost the entire entertainment. Owing to faithful labours and careful training on the part of Misses R. Horton and F. Silcox, nearly every child in the school took some part, and with scarcely an exception all acquitted themselves perfectly. An innovation was made by dispensing with refreshments, except refreshments for the mind. Short addresses were given by the Revs. A. Kennedy (M. E.), and W. J. Cuthbertson. The church was tastily decorated. All present declared it the best entertainment of the kind ever witnessed. A new library has just been introduced, and the proceeds, amounting to over \$30, cleared all liabilities.

WATFORD.—An entertainment was held, on Dec. 30th, 1879, at Zion Church, Warwick, in connection with our Sabbath school in that place. A beautiful Christmas Tree, well laden with presents, presented a most attractive appearance. There were also excellent addresses by several clergymen, choice music by a choir of the young people of the Sabbath school, and some very little girls, and a band of musicians from Watford. also, some very good recitations. The whole entertainment was of a very high order, and reflects great credit upon those who laboured so faithfully to make it a success. There was a very noticeable departure, in this instance, from the old-time practice of expensive tea-meetings, entailing an endless amount of labour and toil upon the few. This was a truly enjoyable occasion, a literary and spiritual feast. Rev. H. J. Colwell, the pastor, presided on the occasion; whose family was very kindly remembered in the distribution of the presents. Proceeds, above expenses, \$36.

QUEBEC.—The Sunday school children under the inspiration of the Christmas-tide, prepared "Carols" which they invited the friends of the school to hear on Tuesday evening, 23rd ult. After tea, the musical and literary portion of the programme was attended to. The chair was occupied by the Superintendent, Deacon W. C. Young, who expressed his pleasure at seeing so many manifesting their interest in the school. The singing by the children was excellent. The pieces selected were of a suitable Christmas character, such as "In a Manger Laid so Lonely," etc. The Infant Class sang very sweetly "We are Little Travellers," and "Beautiful Sunshine." Readings, recitations, and singing, made up a very enjoyable programme. The proceedings closed with a brief address by the pastor, who thanked the friends who had so kindly provided this treat for the children; and the children for the pleasure they had afforded by their singing. He trusted that the interest felt in the school, by the parents, would be deepened, and that the Saviour King would have many loyal subjects from our Sunday school.

PINEGROVE.—The installation services in connection with the settlement of the Rev. Robert Hay, in Pinegrove, took place on the evening of New Year's Day. The evening was bright and sleighing good. Mr. Hay is no stranger to the people of this district, having been the pastor of this same church some eleven years ago—indeed, the present handsome and commodious place of worship was built during his former ministry. The respect in which he is held by the whole community was seen on that night, when men of all denominations crowded into the church to welcome him back again. Squire Wallace, having been called to the chair, spoke of the purpose for which they were gathered, and called upon the Rev. Mr. Unsworth, of Georgetown, who addressed the people on the distinctive features of Congregational Independency. Rev. W. H. Warriner, of Yorkville, followed, speaking of the relation of the people to their pastor. Rev. Mr. Pettigrew, Presbyterian minister, welcomed the new Pastor with kindly greet-

ing. Mr. Unsworth, being again called to the platform, shewed how the people could help their pastor, and, in the name of his brethren in the ministry, extended to Mr. Hay the right hand of fellowship. Mr. Hay replied in a few appropriate words, referring to his former labours among them, and looking forward to a ministry of labour and joy. A pleasing feature of the evening's programme was the children's Christmas Tree, and the happy union of pastor's reception and children's gladness seemed symbolical of the true relation of the ministry to the children. We wish Brother Hay much happiness in his work.—*CON.*

INTERESTING PRESENTATION.—During the late work of church building in Shedden, one member of the M.E. church, Mr. James Ball, was requested to act on the Building Committee with the Congregationalists. He immediately consented, and throughout the work acted with as great zeal and energy as any one concerned, besides giving liberally. On New Year's night his co-workers on the Committee, with their wives and a few friends, gave him a "surprise." After the greetings of the season had been exchanged, and some music rendered by Miss F. Silcox, the Rev. W. J. Cuthbertson rose, and in a speech highly laudatory of the exceptional Christian charity and true devotion shewn by Mr. Ball in his labours on this Committee, handed him an album containing the portraits of his co-workers, with their wives, and bearing this inscription, "Presented to Mr. James Ball, January 1st, 1880, by his co-workers on the Building Committee of the Shedden Congregational Church, as a slight expression of their high regard and cordial appreciation of his hearty interest and earnest labour in the erection of the above church. (Signed) W. J. Cuthbertson, pastor; Geo. Silcox, deacon; F. Warren, deacon; John Silcox, W. Silcox." Mr. Ball replied in a characteristically modest speech, disclaiming any particular merit, and expressing his conviction that the unbroken unanimity and good feeling that had marked the working of the Committee had been due to the fact that each had esteemed others better than themselves. This was followed by a few remarks from Messrs. George, John and William Silcox, and F. Warren. After partaking of refreshment, the remainder of the evening was spent in social enjoyment.

COBBOURG.—On the evening of Dec. 18th, 1879, three of the Sabbath school scholars, Misses Mattie Graham, Sarah and Kate Wood, visited the Congregational parsonage, Cobourg, and presented their pastor, Mr. Hugh Pedley, with a Christmas gift, consisting of a silver cake basket, butter cooler, and napkin ring, all of beautiful design. These were accompanied by the following address: "Dear pastor,—We, the children of your congregation and Sunday school, wish you to know that we are deeply grateful to you for the constant interest and sympathy you have, in so many ways, manifested towards us, and for the earnest and faithful instructions you have given us from Sabbath to Sabbath. We can never forget, dear pastor, the beautiful truths you have taught us out of God's Word, directing and alluring us to wisdom's paths, and admonishing us that, 'Twill save us from a thousand snares, to mind religion young.' If we have learned to love the blessed Saviour more; if we have derived increasing pleasure and profit from the study of the Bible, and have grown more attached to the house of God and the Sunday school, it is chiefly owing to your earnest and affectionate labours as our religious teacher and pastor. Dear pastor, as this is the happy Christmas time, we hope you will accept a Christmas offering from us—these pieces of plate—as a slight token of our love and gratitude. In conclusion, we all unite in wishing you a very happy Christmas and New Year. Signed on behalf of the children, Mattie Graham, Katie Wood, Sarah Wood. Cobourg, Ont., Christmas, 1879." The pastor, in a few words, expressed his surprise, and his admiration of the handsome presents, together with his special gratification at feeling that the young people of his congregation were in sympathy with him in his work as teacher, friend and pastor.

COLDSPRINGS.—One of the best soirees ever held in