

must give special attention to his own work. And, finally, the churches must feel it a duty to consecrate their best men to the work of the ministry; to seek out those whose educational preparation, and, yet more, their spiritual culture, are likely by the blessing of God, to make them good ministers of Jesus Christ.

THE WAY TO WRITE.

We have received the following, and are open to receive as many more, with similar wording and enclosure, as our friends can send us.

Editor "Canadian Independent":

I see that I am \$2 in arrears for the INDEPENDENT. I enclose \$4; two for arrears and two in advance. Wishing your success.

Yours truly,

Friends in arrears, give us the same practical proof of your good wishes.

THE A. B. C. F. M.

The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions lately held their annual meeting in the city of Lowell, Mass. We give a few jottings chiefly from the *N. Y. Witness*. We hope to have something to say ere long about Foreign Missions in connexion with our Canada Churches. The Board has Missions spread over Africa, Japan, China, India and Turkey, and the extent of their work may be surmised from the following extract:

"The review of the year may well lead us to ascriptions of praise and thanksgiving to the Head of the Church, and inspire us with new hope and generous anticipations for the future:

General Summary (Missions).	
Number of Missions.....	17
Number of Stations.....	75
Number of Out-Stations.....	639
Laborers Employed.	
Number of Ordained Missionaries (7 being Physicians).....	156
Number of Physicians not ordained.....	8
Number of other male Assistants.....	246
Number of Female Assistants.....	246
Whole number of laborers sent from this country.....	416
Number of Native Pastors.....	142
Number Native Preachers and Catechists.....	425
Number Native School Teachers.....	528
Number of Native Helpers.....	174

Whole number of laborers with Mission 1,269
1,685

The Press.

Pages printed, so far as reported (Turkish, Japan, No. China, and Zulu Missions).....20,606,478

The Churches.

Number of Churches.....	227
Number of Church members, as nearly as can be learned.....	17,165
Added during the year, as nearly as can be learned, with additions not previously reported.....	2,485

Educational Department.

Number Training, Theological Schools and Station Classes.....	29
Number of Pupils in the above.....	1,051
Number Boarding Schools for Girls.....	37
Number of Pupils in same, for Girls.....	2,391
Number Common Schools.....	709
Number of Pupils in Common Schools.....	25,374
Whole Number of Pupils.....	28,098

*Including nine still supported at Sandwich Isles.

†Including eleven at the Sandwich Islands.

Steps are being taken to overtake those vast territories opened up in Central Africa by such missionary pioneers as Livingstone and Stanley. Not even a resume can be given in a necessarily brief editorial, but the enthusiasm and spirit of the meeting seems to have been unbounded. Seventy years ago, this society met in a private parlor, now, not only was a hall seating three hundred filled, but two large churches also with the overflow. "A little one has become a thousand." The following words

from the Secretary may have practical value not only regarding Foreign but also Home Missions:

"The Rev. Secretary then showed fully the great changes in the work effected by the lapse of time, and by the knowledge acquired by the missionaries of the physical geography of different countries and of the characteristics of the different races. Acquaintance with the languages, and increased facilities in acquiring them, such as were wholly unknown to the earlier missionaries, were of the greatest service to the new missionaries. He dwelt at length on the responsibilities resulting from these changes, and said that the missionary was now looked up to with reverence and love, and his word was law to those whom he had been the means of awakening from their ignorance and degradation to a new life. The rev. foreign secretary concluded his able paper in the following words:—'The time has gone by, if there ever was such a time, when anybody will do for a missionary. No position at home can call for better ability and sounder judgment and more completeness of Christian character than is now required for the missionary, on whom is to devolve the moulding of the intellectual and moral character, not of a few hundreds, or possibly thousands, of his fellow-men, as in some local church at home, but hundreds of thousands! The ground is to be cleared of the moral debris and the false growth of centuries; new institutions are to be established, and the way prepared for all that is best and noblest in our own high civilization—and there is no time for delay. The relative importance of putting the best and ablest men into such work must be evident to any thoughtful mind. Society here is organized with its institutions, its churches, its schools, its religious press, its social habits, as determined by Christian sentiment, all in running order. The very atmosphere is resonant with Christian thought; society here will go on under existing arrangements; the ablest men but fit into established institutions. In the foreign field the missionary is given the creation of this social order, and the shaping of institutions to be for the welfare of the millions of his fellow men. In the ordering of Providence and of grace, upon this age, as upon no other since the days of the apostles, is laid the duty of the world's evangelization. By common consent this is the missionary age of the church. By the splendid results of missionary effort and consecration during the last fifty years, the Master is beckoning us forward. He makes it our privilege to share in the triumph of His kingdom. Shall it be ours to fulfil the obligations it imposes?'"

Our esteemed friend Mr. Hannay, Secretary of the English Congregational Union, won golden opinions from our American brethren. We will give an abstract of his speech in our next, as our columns are crowded this week.

REV. R. W. WALLACE.

We abridge from the London *Daily Advertiser* an account of the farewell of the London Church to its pastor. We have before expressed our regret at losing Mr. Wallace from Canada, and we would do so again. We can ill spare such men as he. We shall miss him, too, in the INDEPENDENT, to which he has been a frequent and welcome contributor. We trust that from the "City of the Straits" we may still receive words of cheer and help. We are sure that our readers will join his Church in the Apostolic benediction, and say "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you."

On sabbath last and last night were held closing services and gatherings in connection with the retirement of the Rev. R. W. Wallace, M. A., B. D., from the pastorate of the Congregational Church, of London, to take up work in connection with the Congregational Body in the City of Detroit.

In the farewell Sabbath services, which were crowded with hearers, some interesting facts and figures were alluded to. When Mr. Wallace, nine years ago, first made the acquaintance of his hearers, they were housed in the old frame church on King Street, and since then they had removed to the present beautiful building, which stood as a monument, on the main street, to Christianity, and to what self-sacrifice, and the voluntary principle could accomplish. The annual revenue then had been \$1,100, but at the distance of nine years it had been raised to \$3,000. In 1871 the personal property had been valued at \$7,500, and now it reached \$20,000, with bright prospects of clearing away the existing debt of \$3,000 on the new church. Financially their work had been a success, and this, through a series of years, which had been marked by depression and trials. The membership at the time he as-

sured, numbered 130, and of these, seven had passed away to their heavenly rest, and 47 had removed to various localities. So that but 71 of the band he had met on that bright June morning in 1871 yet remained. During his pastorate 231 persons had been united to the church, and of these 88 had removed and 5 had died. The present membership was 220, and in consideration of the care which had been observed in receiving members, and the stringency of the times, there was cause for the warmest gratification. He asked the congregation, in conclusion, to feel encouraged to go on in the good work, and he could assure them he would always hear of their success with gratitude and pleasure.

In the afternoon, at the Sabbath School, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace were presented with an address by the superintendent, Mr. A. T. H. Johnston, on behalf of the scholars and teachers.

At the evening service the congregation was very large, benches being required in the aisles. The text was taken from 2nd Cor., 13th chapter and 11th verse.—"Finally, brethren, farewell. Be ye perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace, and the God of love and peace shall be with you."

At the farewell tea-meeting the church was well filled last night and it was necessary to have the tables set twice. Mr. H. Mathewson was voted into the chair.

The Chairman made a few appropriate remarks, commenting on Mr. Wallace's excellence as a preacher, and on the loss sustained by the church in his retirement.

Mr. T. Allen then read the following

ADDRESS.

To Rev. Rev. R. W. Wallace, M. A., B. D.
Report of the Committee appointed to prepare a resolution in reference to the removal to Detroit of the Rev. R. W. Wallace.

The members of the Congregational Church, of London, Ontario, learning with regret of the contemplated removal to Detroit of their pastor, Mr. Wallace, desire to place upon record their sense of the loss the church sustains in his resignation of the pastorate. Mr. Wallace came to London as his first charge after leaving College. Some nine years have swiftly passed away since that induction service, many a change being marked by the passing anniversaries, and many a memory—now joyous, now tender, now sad—leaving imprints of an indelible character. During all these years our pastor has expended his strength in the service of this church—the preaching of the Word of the Gospel having been specially vigorous, attractive, and, we are happy to add, under God, effective to conversion and upbuilding. During his ministry this beautiful building in which we now worship was erected, the completion of which is in no small degree attributable to his constant attendance, unvarying interest, and valuable assistance as member of the Building Committee. Our pastor, having decided to accept the call from Detroit, we desire to place on record our opinion that he made the matter one of loyal duty, sincerely believing his ultimate decision to be in the path of wisdom and usefulness. It is the earnest desire of this Church that Mr. Wallace's new associations, his change of sphere, his contact with new minds and new thoughts, may result in a larger development, still of all true manliness and Christian graces. It is a matter of much satisfaction that this removal takes place not in strife, but in amity; not with recriminations, but with mutual esteem and mutual good wishes. It is our hope to be able to meet Mr. Wallace occasionally in the pulpit and in the lecture-room of this Church, as his new duties and opportunities may permit, when he may be assured of a hearty welcome. We include in these kindly feelings his esteemed wife, desiring for her all divinest gifts in rich abundance. And now, we may sum up our good wishes by addressing both in the words of Paul the Apostle: "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you."

Signed on behalf of the Church and Congregation,

H. MATHEWSON,
H. TOUSLAND,
THEO. ALLEN,
JOHN CAMERON, } Committee.

At the same time Mr. Tousland, another member of the Committee, handed Mr. Wallace a purse containing the present of a month's additional salary, as a mark of good-will. The address which was beautifully engrossed, was executed by Mr. Cox, of the office of Tracey & Durand.

Mr. Wallace made an admirable address in reply, reviewing his nine years' labors in the church, the good-will of the people, their bearing with his early sermons, and their allowing him the fullest liberty of speech. He parted from them full of desire to hear in the future of the welfare of this church, of the welfare of all the churches.

Mr. John Cameron, Rev. J. H. Robinson, Rev. W. H. Allworth, and Rev. J. A. Murray successively addressed the meeting.

The meeting was pervaded by the most harmonious feeling, and Mr. Wallace may well be gratified with the various words and manifestations of good-will, which have attended his regretted departure from the pastorate of the London Congregational Church.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE.

(NO. 2.)

And when you get people there—use them well? Let some one—and not the dullest and most awkward person of the church be in the lobby or aisle, ready to take every stranger, courteously to a good seat. And let some of the leading members speak to the stranger before he gets away; and invite him to come again. And, about the second or third time, ask "Shall I mention your name to our pastor, so that he can call on you?" If he assents, the pastor's way is clear. And having once assented—even if rather unwillingly, he will consider himself committed to receive the visit. Better however, if our supposed "usher," and our supposed "leading member" were one and the same person. A leading member in a leading Church in Ontario once said to me, "there are twelve of us here, who take turns, two and two, as volunteer 'ushers'; and serve a month at a time; taking thus a term twice a year. It was at nobody's request—just an idea of our own; and it works very well." I know not of a better plan, and I think these "volunteers" would themselves feel much pleasure in the duty. I recommended this plan, in a former pastorate, and got two members without difficulty, to begin. The only thing that seemed to interfere with the carrying out the plan in its entirety, was that, at the end of the month, they had no thought of laying down the duties, but kept on without change, or the desire of change! I at least, got two good ushers—one of whom was the most influential man in the Church. After all the different plans and experiments that have been tried, it seems to be settling down as an accepted conclusion that "free seats" are best. True, you may get two dollars and a half from a young man who comes about half the time, for a "sitting;" or four dollars from another man, for seats for himself and wife—when perhaps they would not put down those sums on the subscription-roll of the Church. But you lose otherwise. Many members, having paid for their "pew," think no more can reasonably be demanded of them. And many persons may be hindered from dropping in—who might become regular "hearers,"—just because "the pews are rented," and they don't like to trespass on other people's property—and this looks like it. Worse still, when the pews are sold, and are the heritable property of a family. Nobody likes to intrude—for "intrusion" it seems to be—into such property. And even if there are pews in the same building not sold, a stranger has heard of pews there being "owned" by people, and does not go.

At the same time, try to have each family sit together in one pew. Boys from twelve to eighteen, who don't know any better than to behave ill when a number of them get together, will slip in back-seats, away from father and mother, if they can! It is, I think, one good outward sign of a man's "having his children in subjection, with all gravity," when he has them march in—a beautiful family procession—to the accustomed seat in the House of God. And I cannot receive at its face-value, the profusely decorated prayer of the man in the front seat, when I see his son in a back seat, busy on mischief? A friend of mine, annoyed for the twentieth time, by such a boy, left the pulpit one day, with the hymn-book in his hand, from which he had just announced a hymn, and seized the boy by the arm, led him up the aisle, and pushed him into his father's seat. He did not misbehave again!

Some congregations have acquired the habit (bad habits are easily acquired!) of lounging outside, until the Minister rises to begin the service. Great punctuality on the part of the Minister, a little promptness in beginning at the very minute, and an occasional mild hint from the pulpit on the subject, will—gradually—cure the evil. }