

The church had now grown in material prosperity that, with the help of Rev. Wm. Lambert,—one of the most self-denying, zealous, and yet retiring ministers in our body,—they were able to erect on their lot a comfortable parsonage for the missionary. This building is rough cast, Elizabethian in style, and presents a very neat appearance. It is worth some \$2,000. But the greatest want of the church was a church home, and the purchase of the lot and the erection of the parsonage were solid steps in that direction. We do not know when the agitation for a chapel really commenced in earnest, but *we do know* that when the Toronto Association met in the Music Hall, Orillia, in June, 1876, the feeling was very unanimous that if the cause was to be established on a firm and lasting basis, delay in this matter was dangerous. Bro. Sherman was soon off to the railway station with his valise and his collecting book, and result is before our readers in the engraving at the head of this sketch.

The Baptist cause in Orillia is now flourishing both in the church and its Sunday school, but it still needs fostering care. It is our firm conviction that if the Convention Board will relieve Bro. Sherman of the charge of the East and West Oro churches and allow him to devote his whole time to Orillia and the out-station at Marchmont, the brethren of the Orillia church will soon be able to say—"Brethren of the Convention, you have been very kind to us. We now declare our cause self-sustaining; and with the Divine blessing we shall show our gratitude by giving as we can to your funds."

#### THE RECENT CONVENTION.

The denominational gatherings in Brantford last month must be looked upon as, on the whole, eminently successful.

Grave matters of vital importance to the body were discussed and decided; and the results attained, as far as we can learn, give general satisfaction.

The first difficult question was the plan to be adopted in the matter of the Principals of the Institute. This is settled, as our readers all know from the full reports in the *Baptist* and the *Daily Globe*, by the appointment of Professor Wells over the Literary Department, and Pro-

fessor Torrance over the Theological Department, and the Trustees have decided to look out for a *President* who shall be the recognized head of the whole College.

The following paragraph from the *Zyro* will show how the new appointments have been received by the students, who certainly have a very considerable interest in the matter:

"It is our pleasing duty to note the result of the late deliberations of the Convention held in Brantford concerning the vacancy occasioned by the death of Dr. Fyfe. Prof. Wells M.A., has been elected Principal of the Literary Department, Rev. Prof. Torrance, M.A., Principal of the Theological Department, and Rev. Calvin Goodspeed, M.A., Newton Theological Seminary, and late pastor of the church in Woodstock, has been elected to a chair in the Theological Department. On being introduced they were warmly welcomed to their new and responsible positions by the students. Each responded in befitting terms, and also expressed full confidence in his associates; and that a feeling of perfect harmony prevailed. Our prayer is that God would abundantly bless this new departure, and that our school should become more efficient than ever."

The deliberations of the Home Missionary Convention were characterized by a very gratifying freedom of expression and a more general participation in the debates, especially on the part of laymen, than we have ever witnessed in previous Conventions. This augurs well for the future of our denomination. There has hitherto been far too much dependence on a few leading ministers, and a consequent indifference to matters in which all should equally take counsel and share the burden and the responsibility. In accordance with a notice given by him at the July Board meeting, the Rev. Dr. Davidson, whose services to the denomination have been of immense value, declined re-election as Secretary. The Convention could not let him retire without, in some special way acknowledging the vastness and importance of his labours. He is succeeded in office by one who, according to the united testimony of the brethren familiar with his services in the Eastern Convention, will be "the right man in the right place." The Rev. Joshua Denovan, the new Secretary, has the assistance of Rev. S. A. Dyke; and we have no fears of inactivity or incompetence while these two manage our Home Mission affairs.

The Foreign Mission Society elected as its President in lieu of Rev. Dr. Fyfe,

deceased, T. S. Shenston Esq., who had been its devoted Treasurer from the organization, and his place again is filled by T. Dixon Craig, Esq., of this city. The Foreign Mission Society aim at centralizing their head-quarters in Toronto.

Our Home and Foreign Mission Societies, both closed the year with considerable debt, though that of the latter Society was reduced by \$1300 at the platform meeting held in its interests.

Perhaps one of the most important results of the Convention, was the appointment of a committee to mature and place in the hands of the churches a scheme of systematic beneficence for the support of our three chief denominational interests—Home and Foreign Missions, and Ministerial Education. The results reached by that committee will be before the denomination in a very short time.

The churches have much cause for devout thankfulness to Him who guided in harmony and good-will the deliberations of perhaps the most important denominational meetings held in many a long year.

#### OUR LESSON DEPARTMENT.

The excellent expositions of the Sunday School Lessons, with which our readers have been helped since July last, were prepared, as indirectly stated last month, by our esteemed brother, the Rev. S. A. Dyke, pastor of College St. Church in this city. After five months of mutually pleasant and satisfactory service, Brother Dyke finds that his other multifarious engagements in connection with his church and the denomination, and in special studies at University College, will prevent his continued assistance to us in this department of our paper. Accordingly the two November lessons in this issue conclude for the present the notes furnished by him.

The expositions of the December lessons are prepared by our talented brother the Rev. J. W. A. Steward, B.A., of St. Catharines, who will kindly continue his service in this department.

With the January lessons will commence a series of *Primary Lesson Talks*, conducted by one of our most accomplished and popular lady writers.