

be found," "God is love," or "Come unto Me all ye that labour and are heavy laden." Talk right along for about fifteen minutes, use short sentences, give an illustration or tell an appropriate anecdote every three or four minutes, and you will hold your congregation to the end. The service should not be longer than forty-five minutes; sing, ask some one to pray and close with the benediction. Distribute tracts or handbills, inviting those not connected with other churches to your services, both on Sundays and week days. Be sure you say,

SEATS ALL FREE,

as they ought to be in every church. Your voice is not strong, your chest is weak. Twenty-five open air services will do more for voice and chest and manner in the pulpit than four times as many lessons in gymnastics or in elocution, only be careful not to commence on too high a key. There is no need to shout in the open air in order to be heard. I would be rejoiced if among our ministers we could form an association to promote open air preaching during the summer in fairs and markets and places of public resort. We might have a meeting for that purpose in Hamilton. Who will co-operate? Let us hear from you who are like-minded on this subject.

Now for my usual talk about my work among the churches.

BROCKVILLE

is next in order. The congregations were good. The Sunday school has made steady progress. A settled pastor is absolutely necessary in the present state of the work there. A very desirable field it is for a man who will be satisfied with small salary, hard work, and prospects of great usefulness and success. This would be the place for an open air preacher. We are working and praying for the right man for Brockville. He will be found. The work has been prospered far beyond the expectations of many. It is of God, and He will provide.

KINGSTON.

Preached to First Congregation in the morning—largest congregation I have seen. The Lord has blessed our people and added many to the church during the winter. The good work still goes on.

Preached to the Second Congregation in the evening, and addressed the Sunday school. Church, congregation and school grow steadily, and the pastor's heart has been cheered by the conversion of many, both old and young, especially the latter.

BELLEVILLE.

Only could spare a week evening here, but we had a much larger congregation than I ever saw on a Sunday, notwithstanding cold and rain and floods. The Sunday services are well attended; Sunday school prospering, finances coming up. A number has quite recently joined the church on profession. Mr. Main

is much encouraged, and his people are profoundly thankful. At last, it seems old Belleville is not only living but growing. Mr. Main gives special attention to the young, and conducts a service for them every week. We all believe we have the right man in the right place.

ST. THOMAS.

This infant cause has suffered through not having either a suitable stated supply, or a settled pastor. Sometimes there was no one to take the service, frequently some one in the city, obtained at the eleventh hour. None of those connected had any experience in the working of a Congregational church.

Still the congregations are very good. Sunday school numbers about fifty. The prayer meetings are well attended, and if the right man is obtained for the pastorate, we will have a large church in St. Thomas. A few of the churches have sent donations, which have enabled the trustees to pay one or two small accounts on the purchase of the property. \$185 interest will be due June 1st, \$40 or \$50 of which the congregation may be able to raise. Will not some of the sister churches or the friends give a helping hand? I will be in charge till the Union meetings. My address is: Box 434, St. Thomas.

WOODSTOCK.

I have spent two Sundays here, and commenced a cause which gives promise to be one of our strong churches in these parts—probably self-supporting from the start. Mr. A. Gerrie supplies for the present.

Woodstock has a population of 6,000, and a wealthy country around. We should have had a church here long ago.

Truly yours,

Box 434, St. Thomas, Ont.

T. HALL.

OUR MISSION.

MR. EDITOR,—Not a few of the readers of your really excellent paper have been deeply interested in those questions which have to do with the immediate future, existence, power and continuity of our denomination in Canada. The questions have, in one form or another, been discussed from time to time at local associations, and even from the chair of the Union. Now and again some of the young men feel like putting the inquiry, Have we, as a denomination, anything distinctly Congregational worthy of our zeal to propagate and defend? Some croaker whispers, we have not, and let us honestly meet irresistible destiny, dig our grave and write our epitaph "Gone Home," however, into some other ecclesiastical paradise. We cannot very easily escape the conviction that this thought contains merely a half-truth and a fallacy giving birth to a hopeless policy destined to cut our bow and burn our chariot wheels in the fire. For, it seems to the writer, the primary reasons for our denominational existence do not lie solely in