

course—to every church member. It is democracy. Now, is there not a numerous and growing class in Canada to whom this feature in Congregationalism would naturally commend it? We sometimes boast that our Canadian system of government is the most popular on earth, that the mind of the people is more emphatically and expeditiously expressed in public affairs, than anywhere else. If this be a fact and, certainly, it is not far from being one—the democratic sentiment must “grow from more to more.” And it will invade ecclesiastical as well as political life. It is beginning to do that already. The great Methodist and Presbyterian and Episcopal bodies show unmistakable signs of its inroads. They are modifying their constitutions and changing their methods. Why should not we avail ourselves of this opportunity? Why should not we come to the front? Why should not we proclaim ourselves as the champions of freedom and equal rights and equal privileges?

I might say much more in this direction. I may do so on a future occasion. But of this I am certain, from the considerations submitted above: the hour favours us. Wind and waves are with us. We may make a quick passage to a good shore. But, then, we may miss our destiny. I sometimes fear that we shall. I am certain that we shall if some counsels that I wot of prevail in our midst. If we strive after uniformity of view, if we deem a fixed creed a desideratum,—and there are indications that some are very eager to bind everybody to utter their shibboleth of dogma—then surely we shall fail, and we deserve to fail. If we strive after complete ecclesiastical organization, if we deem a sort of hierarchy essential—and there is no doubt that there is a tendency in some quarters to make the conditions of fellowship and co-operation stricter than they have been—then too we shall fail and we merit failure. If there is anything I would seek to impress on my brethren in this our specimen number of the new INDEPENDENT, it is this: we can be nothing if we are not ourselves; we can do no work if we do not do our own work.

IS ATTENDANCE ON SABBATH SERVICES WORK?

By W. H. ALLENORTH.

The above question is suggested by the oft-repeated excuses for the neglect of Divine service and the Sabbath School. It is now commonly urged as an excuse for absence from the house of God, “I work all the week,” or, “am confined all the week, and need rest on Sundays.”

Just so, you need rest on Sundays. You go to your business on week days, say at seven in the morning, and work, with an hour's intermission, till six at night, ten hours. If you are in a store, or on a farm, or in some of the professions, you will be engaged a few hours longer. Very well; we can understand calling this work. Now for the Sunday rest. Sunday services consist say of four hours, all told, on the average, in the house of God. In most places, Sabbath services seldom begin till eleven a.m.—within an hour of noon. An hour and a half is spent in acts of worship, not work, but the most effectual rest for both body and mind that can be had. Sitting down and listening, or silently following the prayer, or changing the posture in singing God's praise, all as unlike work as possible, and the very best rest from weekly toil. Another hour in the afternoon is a glorious rest by change of topic for thought, and the healthy excitement of teaching, or study of God's word. Another hour and a half of quiet worship, in the evening, is not work but rest.

Nothing but a distaste for God's worship would prompt men to excuse themselves for absence from the house of God on Sundays on the plea of needing rest. The attention required for the service of God in public worship, or in the Sunday school, is salutary and healthful to toilers either with brain or hand by the rest it gives the body, and the change in the line of thought it makes necessary. As to the rest of the day, there are about eight hours for private worship and domestic relaxation.

Three services on Sundays may represent severe mental labour, and even fatigue, to the minister who stands and speaks while others sit and listen; but to the ordinary worshipper and hearer, it is rest.

CYPRUS is to be Anglicized. The first shipment to it from Liverpool was 50 barrels of beer?

MR. GEORGE MULLER'S work at Ashleydown, Bristol, is still in a flourishing condition. The annual report just issued states that after meeting the year's expenses, amounting to \$200,000, the accounts have been closed with a small balance in hand. Since the founding of the institution, nearly \$4,000,000 have been received without any one having been appealed to personally, and 66,000 children and adults have been taught in the various schools.

News of the Churches.

Three persons received the right hand of fellowship last communion at Turnberry.

THE Rev. R. McKay, of Kingston will begin special services at Listowel, Oct. 27.

THE Morrisman congregation at Ayr has joined our body and seeks a minister from our ranks.

THE students of C. C. B. N. A are supplying the pulpit of the “Old Kirk” Presb. church at Lancaster.

THE friends at Georgetown are about to erect an iron fence around their new church at a cost of about \$500.

AT Howick, 9th Con., five persons were received by Bro. Gray into communion at the October communion.

THE new Bethel Church, Kingston, will be opened for worship, free of debt, on the second Sabbath in November.

ACTON finds its hands pretty full with the new church liabilities, but is cheered by several additions to its number.

WE learn that most of our pastors are preparing for very earnest work this fall and winter, and are anticipating large results.

BRO. SALMON has been holding special services at a school-house near Embro. Twelve persons have found peace in Christ.

THE bazaar held by the ladies of Zion Church, Montreal, Oct. 25, towards paying off their floating debt, realised about \$800.

PROF. FENWICK and the students have resumed the services at the Eastern Church, Montreal. The attendance is on the increase.

THE Rev. A. J. Bray of Zion Church, has been drawing crowded audiences to hear his Sunday evening sermons on the “Prodigal Son.”

THE Rev. S. P. Barker of the First Church, Brantford, continues to attract large audiences by his Sabbath evening sermons on the topics of the day.

THE friends of Emmanuel Church, Brantford, have yielded to the depression and difficulties occasioned by the sudden exit of its pastor, and closed its services.

THE “lines” have fallen to the Embro folks in “pleasant places.” There is a beautiful church, a fine parsonage, and Bro. Salmon finds his work prospering.

THE Warwick field under the care of Rev. R. Hay having divided, Forest retains Bro. Hay as pastor. Watford has invited Mr. C. Pedley to supply with a view to settlement.

BRO. HINDLEY is toiling on in his large field at Owen Sound with good success, his country stations being specially hopeful. Bro. McKay begins special services in January.

REV. E. D. SILCOX, Stouffville's energetic pastor, says, “our future is bright,” “we are trying to make the valley full of ditches and expect God to fill them.” The parsonage is being improved.

A CORRESPONDENT says the new Wesley Congregational Church, Montreal, is rapidly approaching completion, and it is likely the congregation will be worshipping in it early this winter.

PARIS has a noble band of ladies who have cleared since the first of May last over \$300 by special efforts. Our good brother Allworth, labouring there, feels justly proud of his efficient helpers.

BOWMANVILLE is greatly cheered. The new church building is rapidly going up. Our Bro. Hen de Bourck is working away most indefatigably, and is much encouraged with the progress of affairs.

FROME, under the earnest leading of its pastor, Rev. W. J. Cuthbertson, has arranged a course of lectures and entertainments for the winter in aid of its building fund. They anticipate a hard winter's labor.

THE friends at Bolton are depressed by the death of good old “Father Wheeler,” still they are determined to keep up the cause. With a good working man among them they may yet become a strong church.

BRO. MCCOLL feels great encouragement in the prosperity of Unionville, with its well-managed and well-filled S. S. and good congregations. Markham has to contend with repeated discouragements, yet is hopeful.

WE understand the Rev. R. W. Wallace, of London, intends delivering a course of winter Sabbath evening lectures on the great religions of the world. Last winter's course was very successful alike in attendance and interest.

LISTOWEL is steadily growing, under the highly

prized services of its new pastor, Rev. A. F. McGregor. The time of the Sabbath School has been changed to the afternoon with marked benefit. The singing has been greatly improved.

MONTECLA, so long without a pastor, is prospering under Bro. McKinnon, from Scotland. He has the advantage of being able to preach with equal fluency in Gaelic and English. The congregations are larger than ever, and the church much encouraged.

Zion Church, Guelph, has been renovated throughout, and new furnaces put in. It was reopened with special sermons by the Rev. J. Unsworth, of Georgetown and Rev. Dr. Wardrop of Guelph. The friends are now putting up a new S. School room at the rear of the Church.

MR. CHAS. PEDLEY'S labours in Kelvin and New Durham have been much blessed; in the latter place he has gathered a Bible class of over fifty. Owing to financial considerations Mr. Pedley will have to leave this field. Bro. Wm. Hay intends to keep those stations supplied as well as he can.

REV. H. D. HUNTER reports from Newmarket, “The field is a hard, very hard one, but with God and the right on our side there are no insurmountable difficulties. The prayer meetings are increasing both in numbers and power. Congregations steadily improve. No debt, no dissensions.”

DR. WILKES preached to a full house in Zion Church, Montreal, on Oct. 13th. “A Discourse of Reminiscences of a Fifty Years' Ministry.” His first sermon was given in Glasgow in 1828. He has been over forty years labouring in Montreal. In connection with this event the Montreal press is loud in the Dr's. praise. A report of the sermon is given in another column.

THE union of N. S. and N. B. seems to be in a thriving state. It reports stations as nearly all occupied and in good order of working, with the following summary.—Churches, 21; Pastors, 14; Members, 1,167; No. in congregations, 3,480; amounts raised during the year \$14,174; value of church property \$116,075. We are glad to see that our brethren “below” have changed the time of the Union meeting to July. This will be better every way.

TORONTO.—The Rev. J. A. R. Dickson has returned from his tour of inspection. The Northern church continues to make real and permanent advance.—YORKVILLE CHURCH is wisely taking steps to improve her service of song. The Band of Hope in the Western is thriving. BOND ST. expects to be in their new church in the beginning of the new year. When finished it will be one of the finest church edifices in the city.—THE congregations in Zion are steadily increasing since the advent of Rev. H. D. Powis.

IN MEMORIAM.—A beautiful marble tablet has just been placed in Zion Church, Wakefield, England in memory of the late Rev. Henry Sanders who for fourteen years was the revered pastor of this church. The following is a copy of the inscription: “In memory of the Rev. Henry Sanders, who died in Hamilton, Canada, December 26th, 1877, in the 51st year of his age. From September, 1859, to August, 1873 he was the faithful and esteemed pastor of this church and congregation, the members of which have erected this tablet as an abiding token of their loving appreciation of his great gifts of mind and heart. They rejoice in the remembrance of his wise and helpful ministrations in the pulpit and their homes, his transparent sincerity of character and his consistent Christian life. ‘He being dead, yet speaketh.’”

Official Notices.

THE Western Association will meet at Burford, Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 5th and 6th.

A FULL list of the arrangements for the Western District will appear in the November issue of the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT. The dates fixed are from December 2nd to 8th. Will brethren please keep these dates clear?

THE Secretary of Middle District Missionary Committee reminds the churches and deputations of the Missionary Meeting announced in the last CANADIAN INDEPENDENT. Let each church do its very best to lift the Society out of debt. Will the deputations both be sure to attend their appointments, and plead with special earnestness the claims of the cause?

ITALY is working gradually and surely toward the light of day. The Government has undertaken the building of 2,000 new school-houses and the repair of 20,000 old ones. There is unlimited hope in this.