

diminished were Toronto the choice of the College constituency.

Of this we may all rest assured, that the surest way to confidence is freely and openly to meet all issues raised; the account given by the Board of its trust shows how little they have to fear any enquiry as to the management of the funds; and a full exchange of views as to the present position of the College and its future may show in like manner all dissatisfaction to be groundless.

As to students leaving, they leave all colleges, if our proportion is greater it becomes us to ask the reason why. It may be that the expressed dissatisfaction has much to do in creating this evil, and that the churches have it in their power, by increased interest and zeal, to remedy the ills and send all on their way rejoicing. At any rate let there be no imputation of motives; nothing done, however well advised, in a corner; no stealing a march upon any section, but the frank conference and confidence of those who realize the unity expressed in our motto, "One our Master, even He, and we, brethren."

[The above was in type before the letter from our Chairman, Mr. Hague, came to hand. Had the letter been before us we should have written a few sentences differently, but the main issues are the same, and we leave our note as it stands.]

PRACTICAL COUNSELS.

PERMANENT CHURCH LIFE AND WORK.

It is not necessary to pass any criticism upon the work of Messrs. Moody and Sankey, or upon the Salvation Army, in our consideration now of one very vital matter, viz., the importance above all things of attending to those ministrations which are essential to the permanent work of Christian service. Herein we have the secret of all real and successful labour, and amid present-day controversies we ought to keep before our minds the necessity and value of all arrangements which have to do with the vital efficiency and the lasting power of Christian institutions. What we have a right to ask is this, that those who are so readily and enthusiastically enlisted in evangelistic movements, which have in them the pleasant excitements of novelty, should show themselves equally ardent in the diffi-

cult and constant church work of aggression upon evil, and conservation of religious force and feeling.

To speak personally: when, for instance, I was in the north, I found some ardent souls taking up with intense enthusiasm special prayer meetings who never, or at least very exceptionally, attended the weekly prayer meetings of their own church; and they were apt to look somewhat coldly upon those who feared that some of these special and extra engagements on other evenings might imperil the health and earnestness of the ordinary gatherings of their own churches.

There can be no manner of doubt that if enthusiasm were quickened in the direction of strengthening and improving the ordinary agencies—philanthropic, social, and spiritual—of our own churches, a very powerful and permanent uplifting of the great free church life of our social communities would be the result.

To maintain life in centres where it has long existed, and to set in order new work for Christ where there is a probability of its permanent power and progress, is a noble purpose; and if it is not so full of excitement as the evangelistic work, which is sporadic and uncentered, it is certainly more likely to add volume to the broad river of Christian influence in our midst.

Much sympathy should be shewn to pastors who have to maintain religious agencies in activity and efficiency year by year; for do we not see those pastors who very ardently undertake special missions, sometimes setting themselves free from permanent pastorates, because they find themselves unable to give thought and time enough to work which requires constant study and toil? Church work is carried on too often amid the distressing and disheartening influences of indifference from those whose rejoicing in the visitation of special ministries is in inverse proportion, and in sad contrast, to the slender strength they contribute towards the permanent efficiency of church life.

What we all need to remember in these days is this, that there never was an age in which the preacher had to work amid conditions which demand intellectual and spiritual efficiency of a high order, not only to keep abreast with their age, but to make full proof of their ministry. The pastoral changes