

Thomas Machin, one of the five, remarked that "the statement of the candidate's theological belief was rather *loose-jointed*," a statement, respecting which, Mr. Hay said a few days ago, "he fully agreed with Mr. Machin!" Mr. Hay modestly felt that the most of his classmates were superior to him in attainments; and it only remained to him to make up in diligence what he lacked in early scholastic equipment. These classmates were W. H. Allworth, K. M. Fenwick, Cunningham Geikie, W. F. Clarke, Arthur Wickson and Francis H. Marling: names calculated to do honor to any comrade.

In 1847 he finished his college course; and in the autumn of that year, on invitation of the Scotland Church, settled there as pastor, and is *working there still!* In 1848 the church building was finished; and, re-modelled and improved, it does duty yet. We ourselves have preached in the newly-painted wooden structure, with much comfort.

Here Mr. Hay has labored among an attached people all these years. Children out of his Sunday school are filling important positions all over the Dominion and the United States. In other cases he has baptized the grand-children of those he dandled on his knees more than forty years ago.

After being there a year or two, he began to preach at Kelvin, and gathered a church of thirty-one members; being the first minister to preach regularly in the place. In 1856 the church in Burford Village became connected with the Scotland church; and Mr. Hay has ministered to both ever since, with the exception of a brief interval.

Several blessed revivals have cheered him in his work. In 1852 he had the pleasure of welcoming sixty new members, nearly all recent converts. And in 1858 he labored in Burford, day after day for five months; and gathered in over sixty converts. The memorandums he has kept, remind him that he has received into the church from the world, on profession of faith, more than five hundred converts. And one of the sweetest of our good brother's experiences, has been that of full confidence and high esteem on the part of all his ministerial brethren. In 1863 he was honored with the Chairmanship of the Congregational Union, and twice asked him to preach the "Annual Sermon."

For two years Mr. Hay was Superintendent of Education for the townships of Oakland and Burford; and for a number of years was on the County Board of Education for Brant. We have a vivid remembrance of going through the ordeal of an "Examination" for teaching in 1852, with Mr. Hay as one of the examiners.

Mr. Hay remarked, a short time ago, "of those who were in the Congregational ministry, when I entered it, in this Dominion, there is but one left at this date."

### A PLEBISCITE.

A plan much in vogue in Britain, and which has much to commend it, is to take a popular and unofficial "vote," on questions which much interest the public mind. The last we have noticed—but there have been dozens within the year—is the following:

The publicans and prohibitionists have just been having a trial of strength at Northampton on the Sunday closing issue, with the result that 3,677 voted in favor of closing and 3,450 against it. There were 333 neutral, and 370 spoiled papers. The majority was "bare," only 227 in such a large poll. *The Echo* says: "This way of measuring voting power may be regarded as a useful method of temperance propaganda. Many people who do not attend public meetings, or read the controversial literature on the question, will, by house to house canvassing, be put into possession of information, or be induced to feel an interest and take a part in what really is a great social reformation. Down with the drinking customs, and upward and onward will go the nation."

Let not next winter pass without a "vote" on Prohibition in every village and town. It will strengthen the hands of members in the House (and some of them need a good deal of strengthening!). It will demonstrate exactly where the temperance thermometer stands; it will help weak-kneed "friends"; it will give the women a chance to be heard; it will set the children thinking, and allow them to be *canvassers*; and it will open the eyes of the publicans, and disenchant them about the "respectability" of their trade. And all these renderings of public opinion can be made good use of in petitions and memorials.

The one thing the liquor traffic wants, more than anything else, is "to be let alone!" We cannot afford to let them alone, till they cease their evil.