

STRATFORD.—The Rev. C. E. Gordon-Smith, F. S. Sc., having accepted the call to the Scotch Church, Lancaster, sent in his resignation as pastor to a recent meeting of the Congregational Church, when it was moved by Mr. D. D. Hay, seconded by Dr. Hyde, and unanimously carried,—

That the resignation of our pastor be accepted; that we agree with him under existing conditions in the wisdom of his decision, and while regretting the causes which of necessity have led up to that determination, desire to express our united and unabated attachment to, and confidence in, him as a devoted pastor and earnest and faithful minister of the Gospel of Christ; that in his new field of labor our hope and prayer will ever be for abundant and abounding success in the work of the ministry.

On Thursday evening a farewell social was held in the school-room, presided over by the Rev. E. W. Panton, who called upon Mr. Alexander to read an address to the retiring pastor, which he did as follows:

*Rev. C. E. Gordon-Smith, F. S. Sc.*

DEAR SIR,—The members of the church and congregation of Christ Church, Stratford, desire your acceptance of the accompanying clock on your own behalf and that of Mrs. Gordon-Smith as a memento of your four years' work for the Master amongst them, and as a token of their love and esteem; with the earnest wish that the time which it measures may be full of true happiness and that you may be abundantly blessed in your work in the sphere of labor to which you have been called.

(Signed) A. H. ALEXANDER, *Church Secretary.*

Mr. W. Hay then presented the pastor with the clock alluded to. And Mr. Gordon-Smith feelingly replied. The hour being interspersed with speech, song and material refreshments, a very pleasant evening was spent, only shaded by the fact that it was a valedictory service. The clock is a handsome 8-day, of antique bronze, that strikes the hours and half-hours on a cathedral gong. A bronze hound sits on the top of the frame, which adds to the appearance and makes it an attractive ornament for any parlor as well as a first-class time piece. The clock was purchased from Messrs Welsh & Co. We learn Mr. Gordon-Smith will close his ministry in Stratford by preaching his farewell sermons to-morrow.—*Stratford Beacon*, Jan. 7.

WINNIPEG.—The past year has been one of the best years in the history of the Congregational Church of Winnipeg. The congregations have been regularly large, and the building has often been filled to overflowing. It is not uncommon at the evening service for the congregation to begin to gather at least half an hour before the time of service, in order to secure seats. There

have been more conversions and more additions to the membership than in previous years. The prayer meetings, which have been called the thermometer of the church, have been largely attended, 150 to 200 being the usual attendance at the Wednesday evening gatherings. The church has an able treasurer in Mr. J. McGill, of the Ottawa Bank; he reports that the current expenses of the year have been promptly met. The Sunday School, at present under the care of Mr. J. D. Hunt as superintendent, is in a flourishing condition. The Ladies' Aid Society is a vigorous organization, and has done much to develop social life in the church by the monthly socials. Mrs. Silcox, the pastor's wife, is the president. The choir, under the care of Miss Emma Stephens as organist and Miss Stevens as conductor, is in a healthy and harmonious condition.

The history of this church is briefly as follows: In 1879 Rev. Wm. Ewing, B.A., came to Winnipeg and organized a Congregational Church. At the close of 1880 he resigned, and a call was extended to Rev. J. B. Silcox, then of Toronto. Mr. Silcox began his ministry in January, 1881; and therefore, with the close of this year, completes the Scriptural circle of seven years. He began in the old city hall, where he preached the first Sunday to about 50 or 75 people. The congregation gradually increased until to-day the large church is unable to hold the crowds that flock to it Sunday after Sunday. The church has done a good work in the city. It has gathered together a large number who, as a rule, were not church-goers. The pastor believes that the Gospel is for everybody, and a hearty welcome is given to all who come.

The resignation of the Rev. Mr. Silcox is felt by his people to be a heavy blow to them; a strong desire is expressed that he should remain; but the pressure brought to bear upon him seems unavailing; he thinks that a change would benefit him, and he says the church is now in such a condition that his removal will not prevent its progress; that it will go right on and do better work in the future than it has done in the past. It is said that an effort will be made to get Rev. H. Pedley, B.A., of Cobourg, Ont., to succeed him. Mr. Pedley is well-known to the people, having occupied the pulpit for some time last summer during the