

We have received from an old friend the following. Being private we withhold the name, but the part of the letter we publish is too good to be put aside:—

DEAR BRO.—Please find enclosed one dollar as a renewal for the *Canadian Independent*. Call it by whatever name you will, I as an interested reader will be pleased to have its regular visits, monthly or oftener so long as it continues to manifest the spirit and ability which characterized it during the last year. I need not tell you that I feel a very deep interest in the "News of the Churches," and I note with pleasure many signs of progress. Following the line of work I have been called to do for the Master in this country, I have travelled a great deal in townships 1, 2 and 3 in Southern Manitoba, and I have only met three *bono fide* Congregationalists west of Pilot Mound; one in Tp. 2, Range 24, and two (from Stratford,) in Tp. 3, Range 27. I meet a few Baptists, but Presbyterians, Methodists and Episcopalians are to be found in about equal numbers. There are a good many hindrances to mission work here. The want of railway facilities for taking grain to market makes money scarce, besides mission centres or stations cannot be definitely fixed till the railroad comes. The population is sparse, and will be so till the R. R. land is taken up. My congregations last Sabbath numbered as follows:—At 11 a. m., 16; at 3 p. m., 42; at 6 p. m., 32. That is considered large in this country on the open prairie. I meet many out west here who hold Mr. Silcox in great admiration. He is a favorite with the young people.

Wishing the C. I. a Happy New Year, I remain, yours, etc.

News of the Churches.

ALTON.—In lieu of an elaborate tea, for which there did not seem to be room in the small hall (an ex-school house,) in which the church worships, the Superintendent, Mr. James McClellan, decided on a simple treat for the scholars. On Friday evening, 8th inst., they all came together, with the teachers and the choir, and spent two hours most delightfully. The choir sang, some of the little girls gave recitations, Rev. Mr. Smith made a little speech, ending with Geo. Macdonald's Scotch version of the man who fell among thieves, and then the paper bags with the "goodies" were sent around. It only cost three or four dollars and made forty children very happy: and they got to their beds at a good hour. A few days ago the choir provided an oyster supper for their friends and themselves, which passed off very pleasantly, with some exceptionally good singing, and the welcome and somewhat unexpected presence of Student Unsworth, who had much endeared himself to the young people when stationed here last summer. If it were not for the horrible incubus of an old debt on the burned church building, we would get on better. But oh, for a breaking up of the fallow ground! Attendance is fair, and attention good; but no forward movement in spiritual things. We labor and pray.

BRANTFORD.—The annual meeting of this church and congregation was held on Wednesday, January 13th; the Treasurer had the pleasure of reporting the church entirely out of debt. During the month of November a special collection was taken up, at which enough was raised to pay off the small balance due and leave a

balance in the treasury, something not reported for a great many years. The membership is gradually increasing, attendance at public services was never so large as at present. The Sabbath School is growing so that room for the classes can scarcely be found. The Bible class meets in the church at which there is a regular attendance of from 28 to 35. The class is led by the pastor, Rev. Geo. Fuller. This church and Sabbath school have great reason to thank and praise God for the blessings enjoyed under the pastorate of Mr. Fuller.

BELLEVILLE.—On Sunday and Monday, Jan. 17th and 18th, the anniversary exercises of the Congregational church of Belleville were held. On Sabbath excellent sermons were preached by the Rev. Mr. Hewitt and Rev. David Mitchell. On Monday evening a bountiful supper was served free to all who came, and a most enjoyable evening was spent in listening to reports of the officers of the church, to good speeches by the visiting pastors, and to fine music furnished by the choir. A little over a year ago the Rev. A. W. Main, of Economy, N. S., came to Belleville. He found the church in almost a dying condition. The members were few and wholly discouraged, the Sabbath school numbered only seven, the credit of the church was exhausted, the most hopeful had lost hope, and seemingly the only thing left to be done was to close the doors and surrender the key to the creditors. Just at this juncture Mr. Main came to the rescue. He had full faith that the material was at hand for the building of a good church. He went to work with a will. With unflagging earnestness he has labored and prayed, and his labor and prayers have not been in vain. The little Sabbath school has grown from seven members to nearly one hundred. The attendants at the church have more than doubled, and in every department there is new activity and life. The church financially has met all its obligations and reestablished its credit. Many new members have been added to the roll, six of whom were converted under Mr. Main. His labors have been blessed to a remarkable degree. His people are very thankful that through God's providence he was sent to them. New hope animates their hearts, and once more they feel that Belleville church will take its place among other churches, and that it is destined to do good work in the Master's cause. The church is about to commence a series of special meetings from which we expect to receive great blessing.

HEPWORTH.—Mr. Bolton, of Warton, has opened a station at this village with most encouraging prospects. In the meantime Colpoys' Bay is abandoned. It is believed that this change will materially strengthen our cause in that locality.

MONTREAL.—The visit of Mr. Moody for four days, January 2nd to the 5th, has proved quite noteworthy. It has shown the eagerness of the people to listen to the word of life simply, clearly, and earnestly set forth. Our large Methodist church, holding about 3000, was filled at every service, and at some of them not only crowded to its utmost capacity, but sending an overflow to a neighboring hall of large size. The churches have carried on special services since his departure up to the present time. Our own have been manifestly refreshed. In Emmanuel the meetings have been well attended, and with happy results. Additions to the